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Celebrity Buzz

Kidman won't move home

pg 30



Sports

Moose smoked by Wildcats on road

pg 20



N.S. last in region in terms of raises

WAGES Only half of employed Nova Scotians received a raise in 2009 according to a new poll by Corporate Research Associates Inc.

Exactly 50 per cent of Nova Scotians say they received a raise while 48 per cent didn't and two per cent didn't know.

Nova Scotia was lowest of the Atlantic provinces, which had a combined 55 per cent of respondents say their pay increased. The amount of the raises was also lowest in Nova Scotia at 1.4 per cent.

The poll surveyed 1,501 Atlantic Canadians in November and is considered accurate within 3.3 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

METRO HALIFAX



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Coun. Sue Uteck poses for a photo in front of a row of cars outside city hall yesterday. Uteck isn't happy about the roughly 200 tickets people received on the first night of the winter parking ban.

Tickets a 'tax grab'

Some Halifax councillors upset with winter parking enforcement

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HRM councillors representing the Halifax peninsula were seething yesterday after the municipality issued $10,000 worth of tickets during the first night of the overnight winter parking ban.

Without a single snowflake on the ground, police delivered around 200 tickets to motorists who parked on city streets between 1 and 7 a.m. Monday. The fine is $50, but increases to $82.96 if not paid within 60 days.

"Peninsula councillors were told there would be some common sense with this ban," said South End-Northwest Arm Coun. Sue Uteck. "I'm not seeing that."

Uteck has long been opposed to the current policy of instituting the overnight parking ban on an arbitrary date rather than simply waiting for the first major snowfall of the season. She called Monday night's ticket-blitz "a tax grab" and said the current rules do nothing to deter street parking during actual storms.

"I have absolutely no sympathy for anyone who gets a ticket during a snowstorm, but we give out these $50 tickets, and don't tow the cars, so the street doesn't even get cleared," Uteck explained.

Halifax Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane agreed with Uteck's stance, saying she receives dozens of complaints every winter from distraught motorists living downtown.

"I have people moving out of the district right now because there is no parking, and they're frustrated and they can't pay $50 every time they get a ticket."
Coun. Dawn Sloane

"I have people moving out of the district right now because there is no parking, and they're frustrated and they can't pay $50 every time they get a ticket," she said.

But Deputy Mayor Brad Johns of Middle and Upper Sackville-Lucasville defended the current policy, saying people were informed well in advance the ban was coming into effect.

"The date is out there and people know what the date is ... so fair's fair," he said. "But I think there's some merit to looking at postponing it to the first snow."

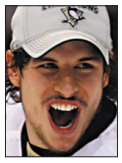
Crosby takes home the Lou Marsh Award

SPORTS Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is the winner of the 2009 Lou Marsh Award.

The honour — decided by a panel of sports editors, reporters and broadcasters — is given annually to Canada's outstanding athlete by the Toronto Star.

The superstar forward led his team to the Stanley Cup in June.

The 22-year-old Cole Harbour forward recorded 33 goals and 70 assists last season and added 15 goals and 16 assists in the playoffs. He went into action last night sitting fourth in league scoring with 38 points this season.



Sidney Crosby

Other finalists were downhill world champion John Kucera, NBA star Steve Nash, doubles tennis player Daniel Nestor, speedskater Christine Nesbitt and mixed martial arts fighter Georges St-Pierre.

Crosby also won the Lou Marsh in 2007.

The panel featured representatives from the Toronto Star, CBC, The Fan 590, Globe and Mail, National Post, Rogers Sportsnet, TSN, Toronto Sun and The Canadian Press. Lou Marsh is a former Toronto Star sports editor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

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Canada pg 9

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Local



Dexter signs climate declaration

Premier Darrell Dexter joined other leaders from Canada and around the world in signing a 2009 declaration to pursue action and policies to reduce climate change, the province announced yesterday in a release. Dexter is participating in the Climate Leaders Summit this week where he plans to promote the Nova Scotia green technology LED Roadway Lighting, which, according to the release, uses 80 per cent less energy than traditional streetlights. METRO HALIFAX

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Bedford company hiring more workers

LABOUR Bedford-based company NewPace Technology Development Inc. announced yesterday it is growing and will be hiring more people.

The company recently secured a contract with Neustar Inc., a worldwide telecommunications services company, and will create up to 50 new jobs over the next five years to meet the demands of the contract.

The province will support the growth through Nova Scotia Business Inc. with a five-year payroll rebate to a maximum of $840,000

"NewPace's growth will create the kind of job opportunities that will attract and retain talented Nova Scotians while growing this important sector and strengthening the economy," Percy Paris, minister of economic and rural development, said in a release. METRO HALIFAX

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Scotia Square **Fire prompts evacuation**



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Firefighters spray water into a wall from the breezeway behind the Scotia Square complex near the parkade yesterday. Dozens of employees were evacuated from the building after security staff smelled smoke and saw some haze. An expansion joint between the buildings caught fire and was extinguished by the firefighters.

Ferry debate deferred

Local man proposes 2 boats for high-speed service

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It was a political hot potato to they just weren't willing to pick up.

The municipality's 23 councillors wouldn't touch a new proposal for a high-speed ferry service between Halifax and Bedford at last night's regular council meeting — opting to defer debate on the matter until January.

The unsolicited proposal from WaterLink Transportation was submitted by local businessman Jay Hasson, who recently purchased two hovercrafts that he wants to put to use in a two-year pilot project linking Bedford to the downtown core.

Hasson said he could have the service up and running by February and asked council to approve his idea in principal — but councillors weren't biting, and they voted overwhelmingly to move the item to their next meeting.

A municipally backed fast-ferry project has been in the works for years, but has been in dry dock since April because a business plan was not completed quickly enough.

In other council news yesterday, it looks like the municipality's race-relations committee won't be resurrected anytime soon.

During yesterday's afternoon session, several councillors expressed a desire to see the committee reformed to help deal with the over-representation of African-Nova Scotian youth in the justice system. The group was disbanded last year during a major review of the city's boards and committees.

But Halifax Regional Police Chief Frank Beazley told council that the current system of holding regular meetings between himself, HRM public safety officer Don Spicer, Dr. Donald Clairmont and several prominent members of the black community in HRM has been working just fine.

"We've had a golden opportunity to engage some prominent people in the African-Nova Scotian community," Beazley said. "To rush out and establish a committee without a proper plan, or proper support, would be wrong ... There's still a long way to go."

Beazley said the consultations, which began last summer, are expected to continue in 2010.

HRM shouldn't use alcohol firms as sponsors: Councillor

MEETING The Halifax Regional Municipality shouldn't be looking to alcohol manufacturers to sponsor major events, one HRM councillor said yesterday

Coun. Gloria McCluskey said she takes issue with HRM's current policy of allowing companies like Labatt and Bacardi to sponsor municipal parades, concerts or festivals.

"Every function we have ... our sponsors are liquor establishments," McCluskey said during yesterday's regular council meeting. "We're talking about keeping kids away from alcohol consumption and abuse, but we're opening this up and saying these are great things."

McCluskey, who represents downtown Dartmouth, made the comments following a presentation by HRM Public Safety Officer Don Spicer.



Gloria McCluskey

Spicer gave council an update on the work being done by HRM's Public Safety Office, saying his team has been working actively to "enhance education and enforcement of the underage portion of the Liquor Control Act."

But McCluskey argued if the municipality is serious about addressing the issue, it should start by reviewing its sponsorship policies.

Staff said they would look into her concerns.

MONIQUE MUISE/ METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

OVERPASS Frustrated motorists using the Fairview Overpass should brace themselves for more possible delays. Starting today and through the weekend, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from daylight to dark on weekends. Normally, there is one in-bound lane and two out-bound lanes for traffic. HRM traffic services said the reduction is meant to provide a safe buffer zone between traffic and steel-sheet pile-driving activity immediately adjacent to the existing roadway. The province is in the midst of a six-month construction project at the overpass. METRO HALIFAX

Spring Garden Area's Quick Facts
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Dr. Christopher Jackman MD, FRCSC

Feds, province put $1M toward expanding Fundy Geological Museum

The Nova Scotia and federal governments are spending $1 million to upgrade exhibit space at the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro. The province is spending $550,000, while the federal government is putting in $450,000. The money will help the 16-year-old museum exhibit new material from its permanent collection. METRO HALIFAX

Officials still fear 3rd wave

Flu Outbreak

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As H1N1 clinics come to an end, health officials hope they've vaccinated enough people to prevent a third wave.

Open clinics, a key part to the largest vaccination program in the province's history, came to an end in the Halifax Regional Municipality yesterday. As of Monday 62,272 people had been vaccinated at Capital Health clinics. But that's only a fraction of the overall number.

Counting the shots given out by physicians, hospitals and other outlets there have been 285,342 H1N1 shots distributed. That's enough for 71 per cent of the population in HRM.

Officials were hoping for 70 to 75 per cent to ward off a third wave of swine flu, but they said yesterday it's too soon to tell if that will happen. "We may still have a ways to go before we get to that point where we can be confident about a third wave, which is why we're still urging people to get immunized," said Gaynor Watson-Creed, district medical officer for Capital Health.

Shots can still be received at doctors' offices and walk-in clinics. The amount of actual vaccine used by doctors won't be known until Capital Health collects all the data, but Watson-Creed said she expects it to be close to the amount given out.

"We are hearing anecdotally from family doctors that we're using up what we send them," she said. "So it sounds like the majority of the vaccine is getting used up."

She said the busyness of H1N1 clinics had dropped in recent days from a peak of almost 3,500 people per day to a recent average of 2,000 people per day, adding family doctors could handle that traffic.

In total there were 130 clinics held between Oct. 29 and Dec. 15.



MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX

People line up for H1N1 shots outside the Dartmouth Sportsplex in this file photo from last month. Yesterday was the last day for public vaccination clinics in the Capital Health district.

Insurance cap upheld on minor injuries in car wrecks

PAYOUTS Nova Scotia Appeal Court has upheld provincial legislation that imposed a $2,500 cap on insurance awards for those who suffer minor injuries in auto accidents.

The court dealt with two appeals simultaneously from three accident victims who challenged the 2003 legislation, claiming the law violates their equality rights under Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In a ruling released yesterday, a three-judge panel concluded that the cap on non-monetary damages for pain and suffering is not discriminatory.

The 55-page judgment reviewed several legal arguments put forward by two women hurt in separate accidents, and a third woman who claims she has suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder since seeing her father being struck by a truck.

The panel concluded that while the law creates disadvantages for certain groups, it is not the product of prejudice or stereotyping. The judges also found the appellants failed to prove that regulations drafted after the law was passed went further than intended by extending the reach of the cap.

The provincial government argued the legislation reflects sound public policy aimed at containing skyrocketing automobile insurance premiums.

The court's ruling carries little weight because the province's NDP government has already committed to scrapping the cap in favour of a deductible for personal injury claims.

Premier Darrell Dexter has said the cap creates "undue hardships" because it sometimes limits compensation for serious injuries.

The court noted that similar laws have withstood challenges under the charter in other provinces. The two accident victims argued the law was invalid because they were denied their right to have their claim assessed by an impartial tribunal.

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Truro also imposes winter parking ban

HRM isn't the only municipality implementing its overnight winter parking ban. Truro has done the same — effective yesterday — with motorists who park on the road between 1 and 7 a.m. facing a potential $15 ticket. The Truro parking ban concludes April 1. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

News in brief

DUI In a rare move, a provincial court judge has rejected a joint sentence recommendation and, instead, sent a man to jail for 45 days for drunk driving. "His pre-sentence report, in the court's estimation, is one that presents considerable concern to the protection and safety of the public," said Judge Del Atwood. The joint recommendation from the Crown and defence had called for a fine and two year's probation for previously convicted Raymond Joseph Saulnier of North River.
TRURO DAILY NEWS

Iconic drive-in to open a second spot

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A new Chickenburger restaurant is coming to roost off Spring Garden Road next year. Owner Mickey MacDonald plans to build HRM's second Chickenburger near the corner of Queen and Spring Garden, just behind the Starbucks building.

"I don't think it could ever duplicate exactly what the Chickenburger is on the Bedford Highway. But it will be as similar as possible and the main thing is the quality of the food and the staff," MacDonald said. He noted construction is scheduled to start in the spring with the restaurant hopefully opening in the fall.

He owned the existing Queen Street property but the building was demolished. MacDonald said when it came something new, "Chickenburger was first on my mind."

"I'm hoping that people like our concept there and that they'll come to it." he said.

Chickenburger

- The original in Bedford was opened in 1940 by the Innes Family and claims to be the oldest drive-in restaurant in Canada. It's become an iconic spot by maintaining its 50s/60s style complete with a jukebox and glass pop bottles.





RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Transportation Minister Bill Estabrooks speaks at the launch for Campaign 911 at the Halifax Regional Police headquarters yesterday. Campaign 911 is a nationwide initiative to encourage citizens to report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911.

Drunk driving campaign 'will save lives'

ALY THOMSON
for Metro Halifax

A campaign encouraging Nova Scotians to call 911 if they suspect someone is driving impaired was launched yesterday in Halifax.

The Call 911 campaign is a national initiative of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Canada. Provincially, the partnership includes Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP, and aims to prevent needless deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers during the holiday season, said Margaret Miller, president of MADD Canada.

"We believe it is a program that will save lives," said Miller, who lost her 26-year-old son Bruce, a police officer, to an impaired driver. "The death of my son was a preventable loss that makes the Call 911 program so very important."

Miller said the program goes beyond law enforcement, and is "giving Canadians a critical role in their own safety, by calling 911 before a potentially deadly crash occurs."

The province will install 13 highway signs during the holiday season to endorse the campaign.

Miller said the annual program has increased arrest rates by an average of 30 per cent nationwide.

Impaired driving is the No. 1 cause of criminal death in Canada, said Bill Estabrooks, minister of transportation and infrastructure renewal for Nova Scotia, at the program launch yesterday morning at HRP headquarters. He said of the 66 roadside deaths in Nova Scotia this year, 18 involved an impaired driver.

> **"Far too often during the festive season many people make poor and stupid choices..."**
> Bill Estabrooks

Estabrooks said although drinking and driving is not just a seasonal issue, the risk increases at year's end.

"Far too often during the festive season many people make poor and stupid choices when it comes to getting behind the wheel after drinking," he said.

Last month, the province passed legislation to fight impaired driving, increasing licence suspensions to seven days for people who register above .05, said Estabrooks. This moved Nova Scotia up seven places on MADD's grading scale from 11th to fourth place in the country with a B rating, he added.

Past AIDS P.E.I. director sentenced for fraud and theft

A former program director with AIDS P.E.I. has been sentenced to a year of house arrest for stealing and defrauding the organization of over $80,000. Angela Michelle MacKinnon, 34, will not be able to leave her home for any reason without written permission for the duration of the sentence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops using privacy law as shield: Group

Civil liberties head says more police agencies refusing to release details in conduct cases

The head of a civil liberties group is accusing the police of using privacy legislation to block public scrutiny of their actions, a day after the RCMP refused to reveal details of a fatal shooting involving one of its officers.

David Eby of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association said he's seeing more police agencies cite the federal privacy law as a reason for not releasing information about investigations into officers' conduct. "It's really not about privacy rights," he said from Vancouver yesterday. "We feel they're using it as a shield to avoid accountability."

His comments come in the aftermath of a decision by Nova Scotia RCMP to not charge an officer who fatally shot a reportedly intoxicated and suicidal man who was in his home alone in Cape Breton.

John Simon died Dec. 8, 2008, after he was shot on the Wagmatcook First Nation reserve. His family argue police didn't need to enter the residence, where Simon was reportedly sitting on the toilet when the officer is believed to have climbed in through a window.

RCMP said at a news conference Monday a probe by Halifax Regional Police determined the officer who fired the gun did so in self-defence. But they refused to answer questions about the incident, including why Simon was considered a threat, and how many times Simon was shot.

RCMP Chief Supt. Blair McKnight said Monday he wasn't "permitted to release a copy of this investigation or the details" because of the privacy law.

When asked yesterday to explain how the law prevents the release of more details, the RCMP issued a news release reiterating its position.

Eby said there have been other cases in British Columbia where police have cited the federal law to withhold the release of information into cases probing police conduct.

"They're taking a certain interpretation of privacy law that most benefits them in avoiding having to explain difficult circumstances," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



TRURO DAILY NEWS

Darryl Moir is moving his costume shop out of the town of Truro and has filed a hate crime complaint against Mayor Bill Mills regarding comments made last week about the top of Wood Street at Victoria Park.

Longtime citizen files hate crime complaint against Truro's mayor

Truro police are investigating an allegation that Mayor Bill Mills committed a hate crime when he addressed activity atop Wood Street at Victoria Park.

Darryl Moir, a gay man who made the complaint Monday, said he felt "totally offended" by comments the mayor made last week regarding homosexual activity.

"We will let the law of the land actually determine whether he has committed hate crimes against the gay community or not," Moir said.

"I don't feel safe living in this community. I think I would feel safer and more content living somewhere else."
Darryl Moir of Truro

Moir decided on the weekend to sell his home and terminate a lease to move his costume shop into a Prince Street location. He is now looking at moving to New Glasgow.

"I don't feel safe living in this community," he said. "I think I would feel safer and more content living somewhere else."

He has contacted the mayor, council members, chief of police and the provincial minister of municipal services.

"Bill Mills can end the entire thing by stepping down," said Moir, who has lived in Truro for the past 17 years.

A week ago, the town introduced a street closure policy for the top of Wood Street with little indication why.

Mills said the area has a reputation as a favourite pickup spot for homosexuals and that the issue would be addressed the same way if the site was a pickup spot for heterosexual individuals.

Town councillors have said they do not support the mayor's comments, but Mills told the Truro radio station on Sunday he had no regrets. TRURO DAILY NEWS

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Marijuana bust sees Sydney man charged

A 29-year-old Sydney man has been arrested and charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and cultivation of marijuana after police executed a search warrant on a home in the Morrison Road area. A quantity of marijuana plants with a street value of approximately $58,000 was seized. **CAPE BRETON POST**

The Trews' kitchen-party vibe

ALY THOMSON
for Metro Halifax

The Trews are putting cataclysmic guitar riffs on the backburner as they try to capture the spirit of the kitchen party on their cross-Canada acoustic tour, said guitarist John-Angus Macdonald.

"It really feels like every show is a big kitchen party," MacDonald told Metro in a recent interview. "People are shouting out requests and we're playing stuff we haven't played in years."

The Antigonish homegrowns are hitting up Halifax to play four back-to-back shows from Friday through Monday at The Seahorse Tavern. Some tickets still remain for Monday.

Across the world in Tokyo, Japan, the four-piece were set to play the Oscar Peterson Theatre at the Canadian Embassy in 2008. But with hardcore rocking comes heavy gear — too much to lug over oceans. The band checked their acoustics and assorted bongos instead, igniting the first spark of the acoustic flame.



GETTY IMAGES

The Nova Scotia band Trews, shown here performing at the 2007 NHL Awards Show at the Elgin Theatre in Toronto, is performing for four consecutive nights starting Friday at The Seahorse Tavern.

"A lot of the industry was there, and they planted a bug in our ears saying we might want to do this back home," he said.

The band did just that and released Friends and Total Strangers on Oct. 6.

"The reason for doing the acoustic record was to refresh everything … and give the fans a little something different."

And the fans have taken to the acoustic Trews, said Macdonald.

"I think people are pleasantly surprised … People think what we do is a one-dimension thing, you know, like raw, raw, raw rock," he chuckled.

The Trews, known for their electrifying three-part harmonies, are pushed to the edge of their vocal abilities with no electric guitars to assist — the essence of the song is at the forefront, said Macdonald, adding he drinks less before an acoustic gig for that very reason.

HRM still waiting for $5.4M hurricane Juan disaster relief

MONIQUE MUISE
monique.muise@metronews.ca

The cheque is in the mail.

It's a message repeated over and over again since the federal government promised around $18 million in disaster relief funds for the Halifax Regional Municipality in the wake of hurricane Juan.



Peter Kelly

Now, more than six years after the Category 2 storm carved a path of destruction through HRM, the municipality is still waiting for a third of that money.

Mayor Peter Kelly said around $5.4 million is still outstanding, and acknowledged the process of securing the promised funds has been both "complicated" and "frustrating."

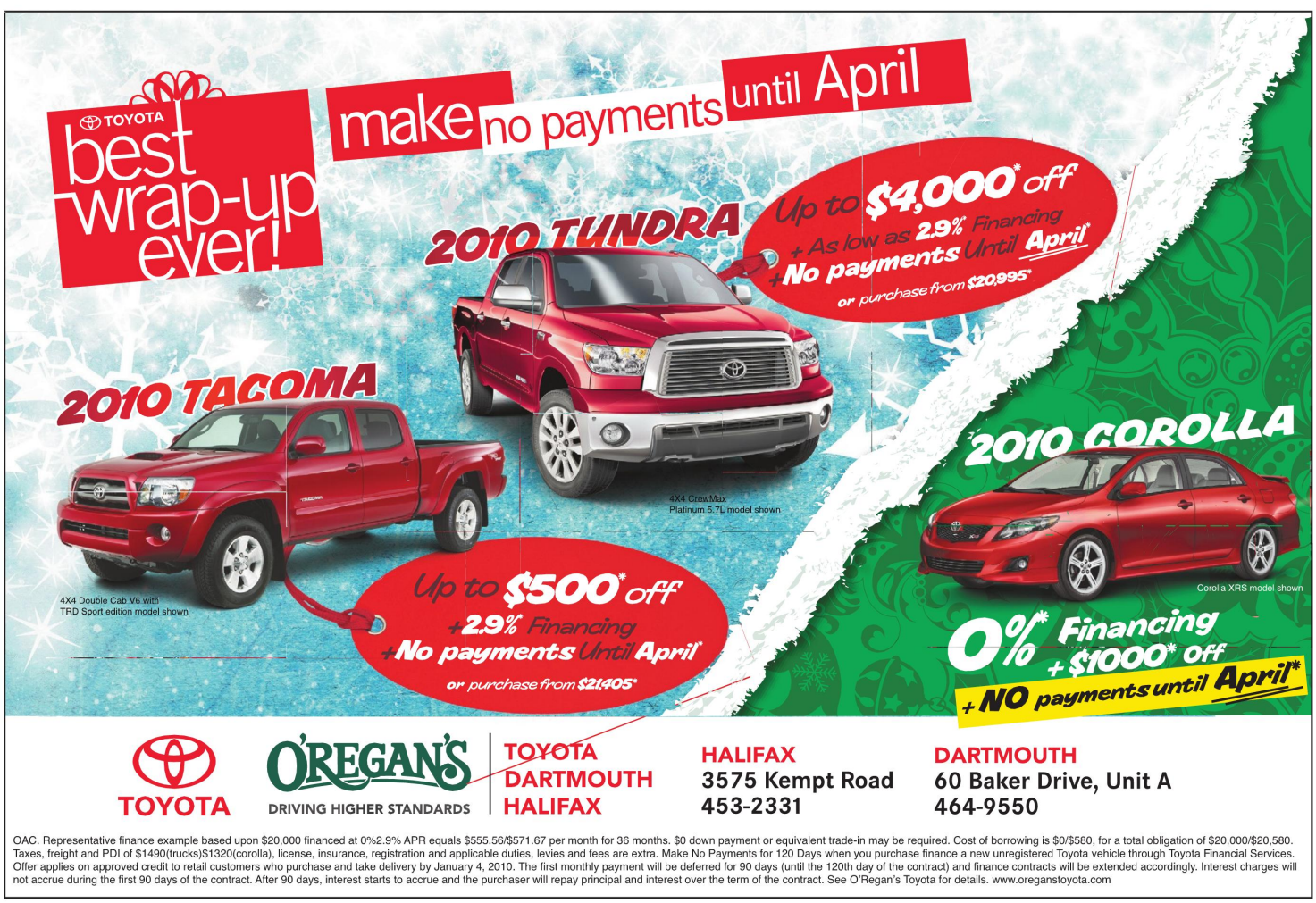
The feds have repeatedly told HRM reviewing all the municipality's damage claims would take time, added Kelly.

"The auditor is in town now collecting the final data and we expect to see the balance in the near future," he said.

The mayor would not hazard a guess on the exact date, but hinted that the money might arrive in time for Christmas.

News in brief

INTO THE WILD Thirteen rehabilitated white-tailed deer have been released into Eastern Shore's Ship Harbour Long Lake wilderness area. The Hope for Wildlife Society raised the deer after they were orphaned as fawns. The society says the fawns were raised under strict protocols to ensure their successful return to the wild. Hope Swinimer, founder of Hope for Wildlife, chose to release the deer in the Ship Harbour Long Lake area for its remoteness and vast habitat. Swinimer says it's getting more difficult to find untouched areas in the province. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



OAC. Representative finance example based upon $20,000 financed at 0%2.9% APR equals $555.56/$571.67 per month for 36 months. $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0/$580, for a total obligation of $20,000/$20,580. Taxes, freight and PDI of $1490(trucks)$1320(corolla), license, insurance, registration and applicable duties, levies and fees are extra. Make No Payments for 120 Days when you purchase finance a new unregistered Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services. Offer applies on approved credit to retail customers who purchase and take delivery by January 4, 2010. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 90 days (until the 120th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 90 days of the contract. After 90 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract. See O'Regan's Toyota for details. www.oreganstoyota.com

Warning about Roman shades and roll-up blinds issued

Health Canada is reminding people to be careful about using Roman shades and roll-up blinds due to the possible strangulation hazard they pose to children. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Liberals sorry for doctored photo

Harper put in famous assassination picture

The federal Liberal party has apologized for posting a doctored photo on its website that depicts Prime Minister Stephen Harper being assassinated.

The photo — in which Harper's face was Photoshopped onto the famous picture of Lee Harvey Oswald being gunned down by Jack Ruby — was removed immediately after it began drawing public notice.

"It had no business being there," acknowledged Liberal party spokesman Daniel Lauzon.

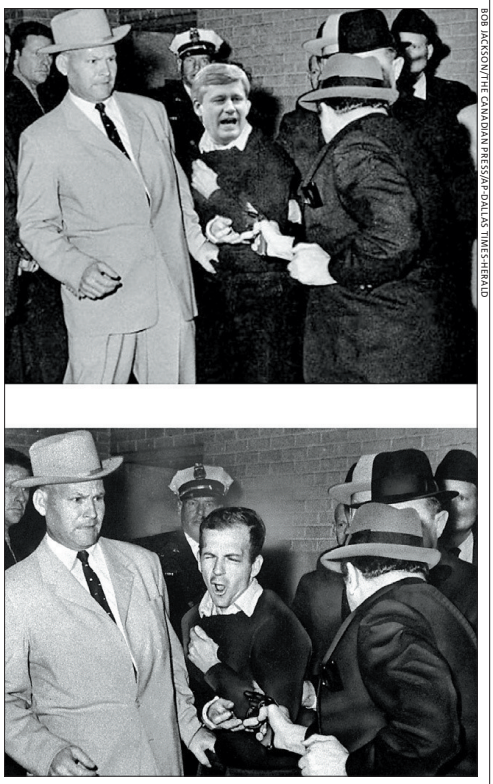
Another fake photo, depicting Harper with his arm buried to the elbow in the wrong end of a cow, was also removed. Lauzon said the cow picture was meant to poke fun at the carbon emissions produced by bovine flatulence but was removed "due to the possibility of misinterpretation."

The photos had been part of a contest, in which the party invited people to make up humorous pictures portraying the prime minister's reluctance to participate in the Copenhagen climate-change summit.

The photos are "user-generated" and don't necessarily reflect the views of the party, said Lauzon — still, they are supposed to be screened by the party before they're posted.

"We do review them but that one admittedly slipped through the cracks," Lauzon said of the doctored photo of Oswald, who was shot by Ruby on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Oswald was arrested for the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



BOB JACKSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP-DALLAS TIMES-HERALD

The federal Liberal party has apologized for posting a doctored photo on its website that depicts Prime Minister Stephen Harper as the victim of a famous assassination. Harper's face was Photoshopped onto the famous picture of Jack Ruby gunning down Lee Harvey Oswald

News in brief

FLAG British police arrested three environmental activists who scaled the wall of the Canadian High Commission in London yesterday and cut down the Canadian flag.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

A Palestinian man who blames Ottawa for 'destroying' his family gains Belgian citizenship after being deported from Canada. Scan this barcode for the full story.

No clear answers from inquiry into alleged Cornwall pedophile ring

ONTARIO Rumours that swirled for years that children were abused at the hands of a pedophile ring in eastern Ontario were neither put to rest nor given credence yesterday by a $53-million public inquiry report four years in the making.

The Cornwall inquiry's official mandate was to examine institutional responses to historical claims of sexual abuse, and the sensational allegation that fuelled it went unresolved in the more than 1,600-page report.

"Throughout this inquiry I have heard evidence that suggested that there were cases of joint abuse, passing of alleged victims, and possibly passive knowledge of abuse," Commissioner G. Normand Glaude wrote.

"I want to be very clear that I am not going to make a pronouncement on whether a ring existed or not."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Teen accused of murder released

A Whitehorse teenager accused of killing a man will be going back to school in January, after spending the last five months in jail. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colvin set to rebut Tories' allegations

Diplomat and whistleblower Richard Colvin will break his silence today in a 20-page rebuttal of the federal government's claims it received no "credible allegations" of torture of prisoners handed over to Afghan authorities until late 2007.



Richard Colvin

Colvin's letter, to be submitted to the committee probing the controversy, is certain to increase the pressure on the Conservative government to comply with a Parliamentary vote ordering it to produce uncensored documents related to the detainee issue.

It comes after seven Conservative MPs boycotted and forced the cancellation of a special sitting of the committee yesterday.

A source said Colvin, who was a senior official in the Canadian Embassy in Afghanistan in 2006-07, feels it is his "duty to correct the record and provide a complete and detailed record before the committee."

Colvin will address the claims both in testimony and in public statements by three cabinet ministers, three generals and former top civil servants involved in overseeing the mission in Afghanistan that "nobody told us there was a problem, the claim that as soon as the government was informed they fixed the problems, and the claim that there were no credible allegations of the torture of Afghan detainees until late 2007."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Climate Vancouver mayor in Denmark



JENS DRESLING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/QMI AGENCY

Mayor of Vancouver Gregor Robertson leaves Town Hall Square on a bicycle in Copenhagen yesterday. The largest and most important UN climate change conference is underway in Copenhagen, aiming to secure an agreement on how to protect the world from calamitous global warming.

Senators change safety legislation

CONSUMERS The federal health minister is "outraged" that Liberal senators were able to get their way in changing a bill that would overhaul consumer product safety legislation in Canada.

The Conservative government has been trying to rework the consumer product safety regulatory framework for the past two years, but Liberal senators have been proposing amendments to Bill C-6, also known as the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act.

The senators voted yesterday to accept amendments that would allow companies to have a stronger defence in fighting penalties for violating the rules, make it more difficult to get a warrant to search offices outside manufacturing facilities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TAXES A Manitoba government report says harmonizing provincial and federal sales taxes would save the province's businesses $510 million a year, but cost consumers more than $400 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada not done with H1N1 yet, top doc says

Flu Outbreak

HEALTH Canada's chief public health officer says Canadians shouldn't become complacent about H1N1 influenza, which is unpredictable and could stage a big comeback in the new year.

Dr. David-Butler Jones says Canada is not done yet with H1N1 flu and there could well be a third wave of the pandemic in the coming months.

He also warns that the holiday season is an ideal time for the virus to spread because of people gathering for festivities.

Butler-Jones says the best way to protect oneself from the disease is by getting vaccinated.

About 40 per cent of Canadians have been inoculated against the virus and the federal government says there is enough vaccine for every Canadian who wants it.

Since the pandemic strain emerged in late April, 102 Canadians have been hospitalized because of H1N1 flu complications and 390 have died of the disease.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police charge 18-year-old after stolen Hummer kills man

Winnipeg police have charged an 18-year-old man in a fatal collision involving a stolen Hummer sport utility vehicle. A 47-year-old man died after a speeding vehicle collided with the small car. Police say they expect to make more arrests in the case. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man gets 42 months for attack on toddler

CRIME The mother of a toddler injured in an assault screamed at the family of the man responsible after he was jailed yesterday.

Kevin Vikedal, 26, was sentenced in Medicine Hat to 42 months after pleading guilty to aggravated assault on his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter in November 2008.

"I hope they kill him in there (prison)," the girl's mother yelled as Vikedal's family entered the lobby.

Vikedal admitted he was frustrated when he pushed the toddler with such force while bathing her that her head hit the soap dish in the bathtub.

She suffered permanent injuries to her arms, legs and brain.

Court heard she is unable to use her right arm, must wear braces on her legs and has vision problems.

"The sad reality of this is that nothing will change this tragedy," said provincial court Judge Gordon Krinke.

A small glimmer of hope is that the child has defied doctor's expectations in her recovery so far, the judge said.

Vikedal was looking after the girl while his then-common-law wife was at work.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kandahar **Another case of bravery in Afghanistan**



COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Master Warrant Officer George Parrott of Edmonton keeps a brave face as medic Sgt. Ian Mothus of Prince George, B.C., administers a flu shot yesterday in the Canadian command post at an Afghan National Army base in the heart of Kandahar city.



Oh no – Yes Men may have new hoax

Get ready for more shenanigans, Canada.

Or maybe that's all part of the hoax.

It's difficult to know what's real and what's not when it comes to the murky, madcap world of the Yes Men.

The notorious group of pranksters had some people going on Monday with a prank on Canada over its stance on climate change.

Now those same tricksters are suggesting they will keep up their antics — and Alberta's tarsands could be their next target.

The New York-based group told a Twitter audience yesterday it pulled its prank to teach people "about Canada's true nature and their responsibility to the developing countries" over climate debt.

But they conceded their message didn't come across as clearly as they had hoped — so more pranks could be on the way.

One Twitter user asked, "Why stop now?" and wanted to know if the Yes Men will keep up their campaign against the tarsands.

"Who says we're stopping?" the group replied.

The Yes Men claim their latest ruse was a joint operation "between groups from developed and developing nations to highlight the relationship between the two," an issue they said should be stressed at the Copenhagen climate talks.

Their elaborate ruse made headlines around the world, and even fooled major media outlets.

The news release purported to quote Environment Minister Jim Prentice saying the deeper Canadian reductions were a response to developing nations.

Prentice said the hoax was unhelpful, but it was at the "periphery" of the real focus in Copenhagen, which is the negotiations.

Past targets of the Yes Men have included former U.S. president George W. Bush, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the World Trade Organization and Dow Chemical.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fooled ya – group's fake news releases

- The Yes Men's prank began with a news release bearing an Environment Canada letterhead claiming Canada was dramatically revising its carbon emissions targets.
- A little more than an hour later, a second release came out, calling the first a fake.
- The group issued a third phoney news release, this time with a link to video of faux Ugandan reaction to the fake Canadian policy change.

Charity gets movie magic

GIVING Marta McLaughlin has sponsored families in the past through the Burnaby Christmas Bureau, but it had long been on her to-do list to give her time.

The B.C.-based prop master, who works in the film industry, decided to lend a hand to the charitable program, which provides families in Burnaby, B.C., with food certificates and gives hampers to seniors.

So McLaughlin infused a little movie magic of her own in helping to transform a once-vacant space at a Burnaby mall into a colourful, festive toyland.

"This is a really hard time of year I think for a lot of people," she said.

Many charitable organizations across Canada are being hit with a double whammy this year: An increased demand for services in a tough economy and a decline in donations.

Statistics Canada says reported charitable donations were more than $8.1 billion last year, but it was a 5.3 per cent decline from 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power deal won't be hidden: Minister

SALE New Brunswick's energy minister says details of the agreement will be made public before NB Power is sold to Hydro-Québec at the end of March.

Jack Keir says he's not sure if lawyers will allow the contract to be released before it is signed, but he says he will make sure the public knows the details.

Keir has come under fire for not providing more details of the $4.8-billion deal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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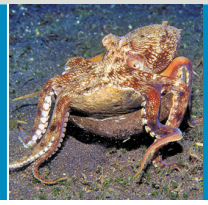
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Police officers plead not guilty of murder coverup

Three Pennsylvania police officers have pleaded not guilty in connection with an alleged coverup in the fatal beating of a Mexican immigrant. Two officers face charges including witness tampering and lying to the FBI in the 2008 death of Luis Ramirez. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Octopus with building skills?

Australian scientists have discovered an octopus in Indonesia that collects coconut shells for shelter — unusually sophisticated behaviour that the researchers believe is the first evidence of tool use in an invertebrate animal. The scientists filmed the octopus selecting halved coconut shells from the sea floor, emptying them out, carrying them under their bodies up to 20 metres, and assembling two shells together to make a spherical hiding spot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attacker apologizes to Berlusconi

ITALY The man who attacked Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi apologized to him for his "superficial, cowardly and uncontrolled" attack as a judge considered whether he should be transferred to a psychiatric hospital. Massimo Tartaglia, a 42-year-old with a history of psychological problems, wrote a letter to Berlusconi through his lawyers, saying he was sorry for his act, the lawyers said in a communique.

Berlusconi, 73, was struck in the face Sunday as he signed autographs in Milan. Tartaglia hurled a statuette of Milan's Duomo cathedral at the premier, breaking Berlusconi's nose and two teeth and cutting his lips.

His defence lawyer, Daniela Insalaco, told reporters outside Milan's San Vittore prison that she was awaiting a ruling on whether Tartaglia should be sent to a psychiatric unit. It was not clear when that ruling would be issued.

Berlusconi, in a message from his hospital bed, thanked all those who had sent him good wishes. He urged his supporters to remain calm.

"Love always wins over envy and hatred," he said in the message posted on his party's website.

Interior Minister Roberto Maroni gave details about Berlusconi's attacker in an address to parliament.

He said Tartaglia was carrying pepper spray and a crucifix, suggesting the attack was planned. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harassment unchecked: Group

Women in Arab world driven inside, says regional conference on topic

The sexual harassment of women in the streets, schools and work places of the Arab world is driving them to cover up and confine themselves to their homes, said activists at the first-ever regional conference addressing the once taboo topic.

Activists from 17 countries across the region met in Cairo for a two-day conference ending Monday and concluded that harassment was unchecked across the region because laws don't punish it, women don't report it and the authorities ignore it.

With more and more women in schools, the workplace and politics, roles have changed, but often traditional attitudes have not.

Amal Madbouli, who wears the conservative face veil or niqab, told The Associated Press that despite her dress, she is harassed and described how a man came after her in the streets of her neighbourhood.

"He hissed at me and kept asking me if I wanted to go with him to a quieter area, and to give him my phone number," said Madbouli, a mother of two. "This is a national security issue. I am a mother, and I want to be reassured when my daughters go out on the streets."

As many as 90 per cent of Yemeni women say they have been harassed, while in Egypt, out of a sample of 1,000, 83 per cent reported being verbally or physically abused. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this 2008 file photo, Egyptian Basma Khaled Abdel-Fattah, 18, trains in a self-defence class to protect against sexual harassment north of Cairo. Sexual harassment of women in Arab streets, schools and work places may be driving more and more women to cover up, rights activists say.

Indonesian Obama statue draws ire

JAKARTA A statue of U.S. President Barack Obama as a boy erected in a Jakarta park has been targeted in a Facebook campaign by thousands who say it should be removed.

The Indonesian-language Facebook group named "Take Down the Barack Obama Statue in Taman Menteng Park" had attracted more than 15,000 members by yesterday since the 110-centimetre statue of 10-year-old Obama dressed in shorts and a T-shirt was unveiled in the downtown park last week. Heru Nugroho, the group's creator, said he would use the support on the popular social networking website to demand that Jakarta Gov. Fauzi Bowo remove the statue.

"Everybody knows that Obama is a world leader, but he is not our national hero who deserves to be awarded a statue," Nugroho said.

"This has hurt our national pride because there are many Indonesian figures who gave worthy service to this nation but no statue has been built for them," he added.

A separate, English-language Facebook site with the same name was created by a California man and has attracted about 100 members, mostly in the U.S.

Many Indonesians are proud of the fact that Obama lived in Jakarta from 1967 to 1971 with his American mother, his Indonesian stepfather and his half-sister.

He went by the name "Barry," attended the local elementary school near where his statue now stands and owned a pet monkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



DITA ALANGKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The statue in Jakarta is meant to capture Obama when he lived in Indonesia as a child.

Officers acquitted of beatings

GUAM A jury in the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam has acquitted eight police officers and two civilians accused of conspiring to beat up a group of young Micronesian men in what a prosecutor called a racially motivated attack. The four officers accused of the beating also were found not guilty of second-degree aggravated assault yesterday. However, the jury failed to reach a verdict on the lesser charge of third-degree aggravated assault. Assistant Attorney General Clyde Lemons suggested the alleged crimes were racially motivated. Defence attorneys argued the allegations were fabricated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlers attack policewoman

WEST BANK Angry settlers beat and seriously injured a female Israeli police officer yesterday, police said, as she tried to enforce a government ban on new housing construction in Jewish West Bank settlements. It was the most serious clash between settlers and authorities since the building restrictions were imposed last month. Settlers have vowed to defy the orders and have confronted government inspectors, scuffling with them.

Police spokesman Gil Elhadad said about 100 settlers, most of them teenagers, burned tires and blocked the entrance to the settlement of Tsofit, in the northern part of the West Bank near the line with Israel. He said some of them jumped the police officer and beat her, breaking several ribs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Another deadly bombing in Pakistan
A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb in a market close in central Pakistan yesterday, killing 33 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Balancing between success and failure’

Differences between U.S. and China threaten conference

Go Green

The success of the UN climate conference hung in the balance yesterday as China and the U.S. deadlocked over whether Beijing will allow the world to check its books and verify promised cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

Princes, presidents and premiers crowded into a vast hall for the formal opening of the largest summit ever held on climate change, but attention was on the leaders of the world’s two largest polluters — U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao — who plan to arrive for the final days of talks on a framework to control heat-trapping gases.

Negotiators who have been working for 10 days floated new draft documents on lesser issues. But they left open the vexing questions of emissions targets for industrial countries, billions of dollars a year in funding for poor countries to contend with global warming, and verifying the actions of emerging powers like China to ensure they keep their promises.

“In these very hours, we are balancing between success and failure,” said conference president Connie Hedegaard of Denmark.

Success is possible, she said, “but I must also warn you: We can fail — probably without anyone really wanting it so, but because we spent too much time on posturing, on repeating positions, on formalities.”

The rest of the 115 leaders were expected to arrive before Friday’s summit finale to sign a political outline of a global warming treaty that would set limits on carbon dioxide pollution by the United States, China, India as well as extending emissions targets for the 37 countries regulated under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

“There is no understatement that with your signatures you will write our future,” Britain’s Prince Charles told the conference.

Prodipto Ghosh, a member of the Indian delegation, said the negotiations were “not going good” and that fundamental differences between rich and poor nations would be “difficult to bridge” by the end of the week.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was positive about a deal but expressed frustration with the progress to date.

“I’m afraid that negotiations have been too slow,” Ban said. “I think all the countries can and must do more.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An activist protests for a climate-change deal in Copenhagen yesterday. A showdown between the world’s two largest polluters loomed over the UN climate talks as China accused the U.S. and other rich nations of backsliding on their commitments to fight global warming.

Big footprint

- If they fail to reach a climate deal in Copenhagen, world leaders flying in their private jets and huddling in five-star hotels will have little to show for their efforts beyond a big, fat carbon footprint. The UN estimates 40,500 tons of carbon dioxide will be pumped into the atmosphere during the 12-day conference — 90 per cent of it from flights.

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SCANLIFE
Scan this barcode for a daily video report from Copenhagen, or watch it at metronews.ca/world

Turning cow dung to electricity a ‘win’

Go Green

COPENHAGEN The United States is counting on cows to help save the planet.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced an agreement with the American dairy industry yesterday to reduce the industry’s greenhouse gas emissions 25 per cent by 2020, mostly by convincing farmers to capture the methane from cow manure that otherwise would be released into the atmosphere.

“This historic agreement, the first of its kind, will help us achieve the ambitious goal of drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions while benefiting farmers,” Vilsack said at the UN climate talks.

“(The) use of manure of technology is a win for everyone.”

Agriculture accounts for about seven per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

The plan calls for persuading more American farmers to purchase an anaerobic digester, which essentially converts cow manure into electricity.

The problem is that, so far, only two per cent of U.S. dairy farmers are using the technology, mostly because it is too costly for family farmers.

Farms that would be interested in this technology would likely have more than 100 cows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Don Cherry's rants don't suit doctor

TheWestView



One of our great Canadian icons is threatened. I'm not talking about the polar bear, although he does kind of look like one.

I'm talking about Don Cherry, who has held down Coach's Corner on Hockey Night In Canada forever.

Grapes is famous for abusing the English language and haberdashery, not necessarily in that order. Each week, he dresses up in some outrageous clown suit and expresses himself in words that can only be described in adjectives that end in "ent," as in "truculent" and "petulant." It's a bad boy act that, apparently, never gets old.

After all, he is No. 7 on CBC's all-time list of Top 10 Canadians. He outpolled Sir John A. Macdonald, the father of our country! He even beat Wayne Gretzky, who really knew how to play hockey, not just growl about it.

Over the years, Grapes has been in trouble for his opinions, which occasionally fall over the line from outrageous to actionable. He is perhaps most notorious for picking on European and French Canadian hockey players who wear visors — he prefers wholesome, unprotected bruisers from northern Ontario or the Prairies.

Despite that, or more likely because of his various gaffes, Cherry continues to thrive. But he's back on the hot seat after neurosurgeon Dr. Charles Tator, concerned about the rise of concussions in hockey, recently condemned Cherry for being a "negative influence" because he promotes aggressive hockey.

That's like saying polar bears eat seals for breakfast. Cherry's Rock'em, Sock'em video collection of hockey fights and spectacular bodychecks is all the way up to volume 21. He's the most visible and audible advocate of hockey contact in a country of bloodthirsty fans. Must be those mind-warping plaid suits.

Even weirder than Cherry's tailor ("Mr. Cherry, chartreuse and Day-Glo orange are definitely your colours!") are the legion of admirers and supporters rushing to his defence.

The producer of Hockey Night In Canada defends his "record of safety and respect in hockey." Various hockey players and pundits have pointed out his criticism of "touch icing" and his campaign to prevent blind hits from behind, both subtle variations on his general approval of hockey mayhem.

Face it, Don Cherry is the poster boy for the thousands of fans who are on their feet whenever a fight breaks out on the ice. He's our token troglodyte, and his popularity says more about us than it does about him.

Dr. Tator, you might as well try to turn polar bears into vegetarians.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: What do you think this decade will be remembered for?

Julie Ireland
Halifax

A: Probably President Obama — the first black president in the U.S. I think it's given a lot of hope to different people. It's a symbol of all the change that's been progressing throughout time.

David Brophy
Halifax

A: For me I think it's the lack of having Christ in people's lives. There's been a lot of violence.

Stephanie Khoury
Dartmouth

A: The war in Afghanistan. I think it's affected so many people.

Mike Derrada
Toronto

A: I guess just the constant changes. Everyone was all about the next best thing. Things were always changing ... Whether it's technology, fashion, celebrities ... in with the new and out with the old, at a very fast pace.

Julianna Auma
Vancouver

A: Scandals. Political scandals, environmental scandals. It has definitely been a decade of learning and one to learn from.

Michael Schraefel
Calgary

A: I would have to say the widespread usage and access to the Internet and communication technology. It's bizarre how much it has changed over the years.



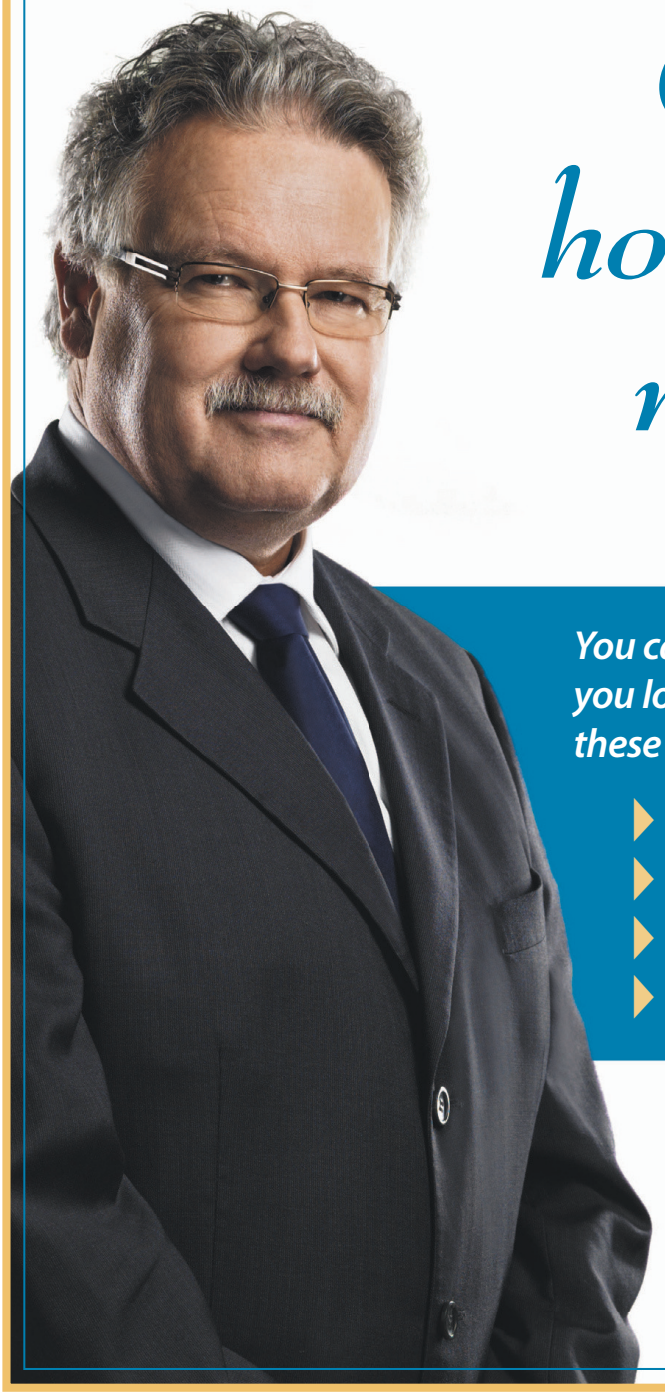


MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Russia to build Vietnam's nuclear plant

Russia penned a deal yesterday to build Vietnam's first nuclear power plant, and the countries' respective oil and gas giants forged a joint venture, increasing Moscow's outreach into southeast Asia, Russian news agencies reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Homebuyers nervous: Poll

A survey of real estate brokers and agents says Canadian homebuyers are still nervous about the stability of the economy, but few believe home prices are likely to decline again.

The Royal LePage adviser survey found 38 per cent of agents and brokers said economic instability ranked as the number one fear for home owners over the past three months.

Twenty-three per cent of brokers said home buyers fear they may not be able to sell existing homes at the price they are hoping for, while 12 per cent said buyers are hesitant because they think prices haven't hit rock bottom yet.

Another 20 per cent of agents and brokers said they are not hearing any concerns from buyers.

The survey also found an increasing number of Canadians were buying homes as investment properties with more planning to renovate after they made a purchase.

The online survey questioned 1,225 Royal LePage agents and brokers in November.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rising price

- The national average price of an existing home rose to more than $337,000, the Canadian Real Estate Association reports.

Poland **Union gets heated**



CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Polish shipyard workers burn tires and react, during a demonstration, in Warsaw, Poland, yesterday. Thousands of workers from the Solidarity trade union marched in the Polish capital to demand government protection for industrial jobs. The workers rallied in front of Prime Minister Donald Tusk's office, carrying the white and red flags of the Solidarity trade union.

New motor vehicle sales increase during October

AUTO New motor vehicle sales increased 3.5 per cent to 133,559 units in October after rising in September.

October's sales were 3.2 per cent lower than October 2008.

Preliminary industry data indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold decreased seven per cent in November.

A 7.6 per cent gain in sales of North American-built passenger cars contributed to most of October's increase. The number of overseas-built passenger cars sold increased by 2.3 per cent, more than offsetting the decline in September. Sales of new trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) rose for a fourth straight month, up 1.6 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

As concern about Dubai begins to fade, worries about the financial health of Greece and Austria provokes fresh anxiety for economists. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Business in brief

BANKRUPTCY The number of Canadian bankruptcies fell a record 27.7 per cent in October from a month earlier, the office of the superintendent of bankruptcy said yesterday, CBC News Online reports.

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Airlines to lose billions in '10: IATA

The global airline industry will face another harrowing year in 2010, with losses expected to reach $5.6 billion US despite some recovery in passenger and cargo traffic, an industry group said yesterday.

Low yields and rising costs are a "continuing disaster" for world airlines, who have already lost $49 billion since 2000, according to the International Air Transport Association. The industry group maintained its estimate of $11 billion full-year losses for 2009.

"The worst is likely behind us," said IATA chief executive Giovanni Bisignani. "Some key statistics are moving in the right direction. Demand will likely continue to improve and airlines are expected to drive down non-fuel unit costs."

Still, he conceded that "airlines will remain firmly in the red in 2010."

IATA attributed much of the pressure on the "extraordinarily low" yields airlines are currently generating — the average price someone pays to fly one mile. Those will barely improve in 2010 because of a glut of planes on the market and lower corporate travel budgets, it said.

The group, which represents 240 airline companies worldwide, has been forced to lower its forecasts as the intensity and longevity of the economic crisis became clearer. It had earlier forecast $3.8 billion in losses for 2010, and only 12 months ago was predicting that deep cost cuts by U.S. carriers would limit industry losses to $2.5 billion for this year.

"2009 very quickly got much worse than we expected."
Brian Pearce, IATA

"2009 very quickly got much worse than we expected," said IATA chief economist Brian Pearce.

Passenger traffic fell 4.1 per cent, from the already-low levels they reached in 2008 when financial markets collapsed, and premium fares fell the hardest. Cargo traffic, meanwhile, declined 13 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

China doubles up on U.S. in money raised from initial public offerings

China has outstripped the U.S. in the amount of money raised from stock listings, underscoring the region's stronger economy and a resurgence in investment.

Companies have raised nearly $52 billion US from initial public offerings on exchanges in Hong Kong and mainland China so far this year, according to financial research firm Dealogic. That's about twice as much as the some $26.5 billion in American IPOs. In 2007, the amount of money raised from IPOs in Hong Kong and the mainland also exceeded the U.S. total.

Hong Kong alone has drawn more than $27 billion this year, making the southern Chinese financial centre the world's top city for equity capital raising for the first time, according to Dealogic's records dating to 1997. Since 2000, Wall Street has led every year except for 2006, when London was the destination of choice.

The activity underscores the yawning gap in economic strength between Asia and the West.

At a time when the U.S. and European economies are still suffering the effects of the financial crisis, China is headed for growth of eight per cent or more this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

EARNINGS Commercial printer and media company Transcontinental earned $43.1 million in the fourth quarter, reversing last year's $94.3 million loss, despite a nine per cent drop in revenue. Last year's loss was primarily due to a write-off of goodwill related to direct mail operations in the U.S. and a restructuring charge. The Montreal-based company said yesterday its net income applicable to participating shares for the period ended Oct. 31 was 53 cents, compared to a loss of $1.17 a year earlier.

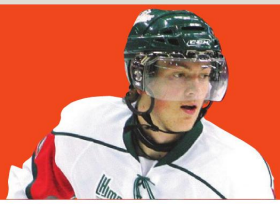
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Upper Deck sticking with Woods

Sports card and memorabilia maker Upper Deck Co. said yesterday it will continue its relationship with Tiger Woods. The company, and its Upper Deck Authenticated collectibles division, said the two "look forward to his eventual return to the PGA Tour." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Abeltshauser doing well

Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser has two assists in two games for Germany at the Pool B world junior hockey championship in France. Germany has won both games so far, 9-0 over Japan and 6-0 over Slovenia. METRO HALIFAX

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

NHL Pens score plenty



GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby scores past Philadelphia goalie Brian Boucher as Penguins' Matt Cooke begins to celebrate during the first period of last night's game in Pittsburgh. Crosby potted a goal and two assists as the Penguins beat the Flyers 6-1.

Mooseheads lose captain and game

Knotek set to join Czech Republic for three weeks

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Tomas Knotek delivered, but the Halifax Mooseheads couldn't send their star player off with a victory.

The 19-year-old captain scored Halifax's lone goal last night in a 6-1 road loss to the red-hot Moncton Wildcats as the Mooseheads' latest losing streak stretched to three games.

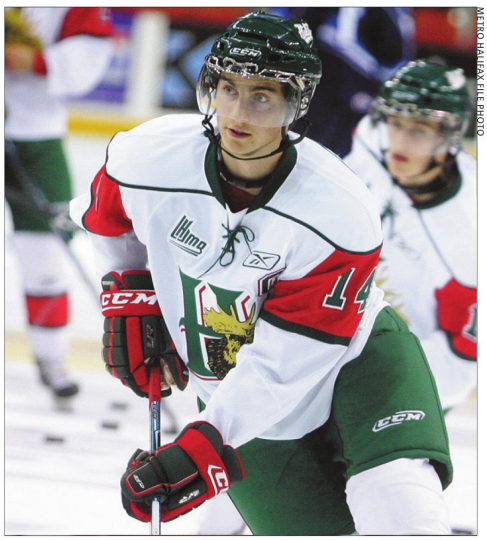
It was Knotek's final game with the Herd before leaving for the next three weeks to join the Czech Republic for the world junior championship in Saskatchewan.

Knotek, last year's team MVP, has a club-leading 17 goals and 15 assists for 32 points in 34 games. He'll be a key player for the Czechs and could miss seven Q games.

"I've been too scared to look (to find out how many games he'll miss)," said Mooseheads head coach Cam Russell.

"You're losing your captain, you're losing your best player on a team that hasn't generated a lot of scoring. It's a big hole."

Moncton got off to a quick start when Alex Saulnier put a penalty shot past Mathieu Corbeil just 3:20 in. Although Knotek evened things up at 6:08, the Wildcats took over with two goals in the second period and three in the third.



METRO HALIFAX FILE PHOTO

Tomas Knotek has 17 goals and 15 assists for 32 points in 34 games this season.

Desjardins out of lineup

• Gabriel Desjardins sat out of the Halifax Mooseheads' lineup last night with a minor shoulder injury. The 17-year-old winger has three goals and eight assists in 31 games and could return to the lineup as early as tomorrow night.

Marek Hrivik, who will join Slovakia for the WJC, scored a pair, while Allain Saulnier, Scott Brannon and Daniel Pettersson netted singles on Corbeil, who faced 29 shots.

All three third-period goals came on the power play.

"We had a power play that could have made it 3-2 and they got a power play after that and made it 4-1," Russell said. "It's tough to come back against a team like that when you're down by three in the third period. Penalties cost us."

The Wildcats, fifth overall in the QMJHL with a 21-10-3 record, have now won seven consecutive games.

The Mooseheads, last in the QMJHL with a 7-25-3 record, visit the first-place Saint John Sea Dogs tomorrow.

NHL owners won't pay for Coyotes losses, says Bettman

MONEY Gary Bettman says NHL owners probably won't have to cut any cheques to cover the losses of the Phoenix Coyotes.

The commissioner reassured some members of the board of governors yesterday that they won't be on the hook for the money-losing team if a proposed sale to the Ice Edge group goes through. The league paid $140 million US to purchase the Coyotes out of bankruptcy earlier this season and expects to recoup that amount — plus operating losses —from Ice Edge.

Some NHL owners arrived to the board of governors meeting thinking they would ultimately have to pay money to keep the Coyotes afloat.

"There seemed to be a lot of confusion," said Bettman. "Some of your colleagues have been calling some of the clubs and asking how they feel about the assessment. There are no assessments.

"We don't believe that ultimately it's going to have cost us anything to have bought the club and resold it."

Ice Edge signed a letter of intent to purchase the Coyotes last week. Details of the group's bid have yet to be revealed publicly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

BASKETBALL Former Halifax Rainmen David Bailey and Glen Dandridge are vying for jobs with the Rochester RazorSharks. Both players are at training camp this week with Rochester.

HOCKEY Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby has been named The Hockey News' No. 4 person of power and influence in hockey. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman is No. 1.

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Snowboard victory
Canada's Matthew Morison won the men's parallel giant slalom title at a snowboard World Cup event. Morison, of Burketon, Ont., edged Austria's Benjamin Karl and France's Mathieu Bozzetto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Breaking down the deal

A look at what's known so far about the Roy Halladay trade

There are two interesting initial takeaways for Toronto Blue Jays fans to note as the blockbuster Roy Halladay trade inches closer to completion.

One, new general manager Alex Anthopoulos not only preaches creativity in his dealings with other teams, he practises it.

Two, he likes the prospects he's getting in return so much that he will reportedly send a whack of money to the Philadelphia Phillies to help get the deal done.

Neither point will offer much comfort to those worried about the grim reality of a Halladay-less future in Toronto, but both offer telling glimpses into how Anthopoulos and his new front office handle their business.

First things first, the details, as best they can be worked out with the Blue Jays still deep in blackout mode yesterday:

• Halladay and the Phillies agreed to a three-year extension worth $60 million US with a vesting option for a fourth season at an additional $20 million, according to multiple reports, appearing to leave physicals as the final step before the deal is completed.

• The Blue Jays are to get three prospects from Philadelphia — right-hander Kyle Drabek, outfielder Michael Taylor and catcher Travis d'Arnaud — and once everything is done, they'll flip Taylor to the Oakland Athletics for infielder Brett Wallace, according to ESPN.com.

• The Blue Jays will also send about $6 million to the Phillies to help defray the difference in 2010 salary between Halladay ($15.75 million) and Lee ($9 million). That needs approval from commissioner Bud Selig, which usually doesn't take long.

• The Phillies are then to send Lee to the Seattle Mariners for prospects Phillippe Aumont, a right-hander from Gatineau, Que., Tyson Gillies, an outfielder from Langley, B.C., and Juan Ramirez, a right-handed pitcher.

Got all that?

It's an epic deal in several ways and it's the creativity displayed by the Blue Jays that helped make it happen.

Anthopoulos has been described by those who have dealt with him as a relentless negotiator — Ricciardi called him The Barracuda — and has shown an innovative streak in some of the contracts he's negotiated, particularly through the unique option system in second baseman Aaron Hill's contract.

Combined with the information-gathering ability of his staff, Anthopoulos was able to mix and match the wants and needs of various teams until finding the return he wanted for Halladay.

"I think Toronto's done very well," said Keith Law, the former Blue Jays executive who is now a scouting analyst for ESPN.com. "It's not a home run, this isn't a heist, it's a very good return for one year of Halladay." THE CANADIAN PRESS


Kyle Drabek

The New Jays

A look at three players said to be coming to Toronto.

• Kyle Drabek, 22, a right-handed Phillies pitching prospect with a dominant curveball.

• Brett Wallace, 23, a third baseman with a sweet left-handed swing and some pop.

• Travis d'Arnaud, 20, a catcher with potential to be an above-average hitter, but who is years away from the majors.

Colbert, decked out as speedskater, lands on cover of Sports Illustrated

Stephen Colbert has joined the legions of athletes and swimsuit models to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated.



The host of The Colbert Report appears on the front of the magazine's latest issue wearing an Olympic speedskating uniform. The issue is devoted to sports media and hits newsstands today.

In November, devoted Colbert fans known as the Colbert Nation became the official primary sponsor of U.S. Speedskating. The team's largest annual cash sponsor, DSB Bank NV, left the team in the lurch after it declared bankruptcy in October.

With contributions from fans of the popular mock political pundit, more than $250,000 US has been raised.

Colbert announced on his TV show earlier this month that he would accept an invitation from the City of Richmond to attend the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, but only as a member of the U.S. Olympic team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

Sponsored by Money Mart

NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	415	173	256	429
2. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	417	175	248	423
3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	421	194	225	419
4. Cole Warren	NS, CA	422	151	267	418
4. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	421	174	244	418
6. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	418	180	233	413
6. Kelly Wrishko	AB, CA	417	171	242	413
6. Paula Almeida-Stille		421	173	240	413
6. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	421	173	240	413
10. Rick Kit	ON, CA	417	179	232	411
11. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	417	171	239	410
12. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	413	169	238	407
13. Brian B	AB, CA	417	173	233	406
13. Claude Brunelle	BC, CA	424	167	239	406
13. Sarah Jackson	ON, CA	409	162	244	406

* Results exclude Quebec

markerzone.com metro

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
St. Louis 4 Calgary 3
Minnesota 2 Columbus 1
Nashville 7 Tampa Bay 4
Pittsburgh 6 Philadelphia 1
Washington at Colorado N
Los Angeles at Edmonton N

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Miami 115 Toronto 95
Charlotte 94 New York 87
Cleveland 99 New Jersey 89
Houston 107 Detroit 96
L.A. Lakers 96 Chicago 87
San Antonio at Phoenix N
Sacramento at Portland N

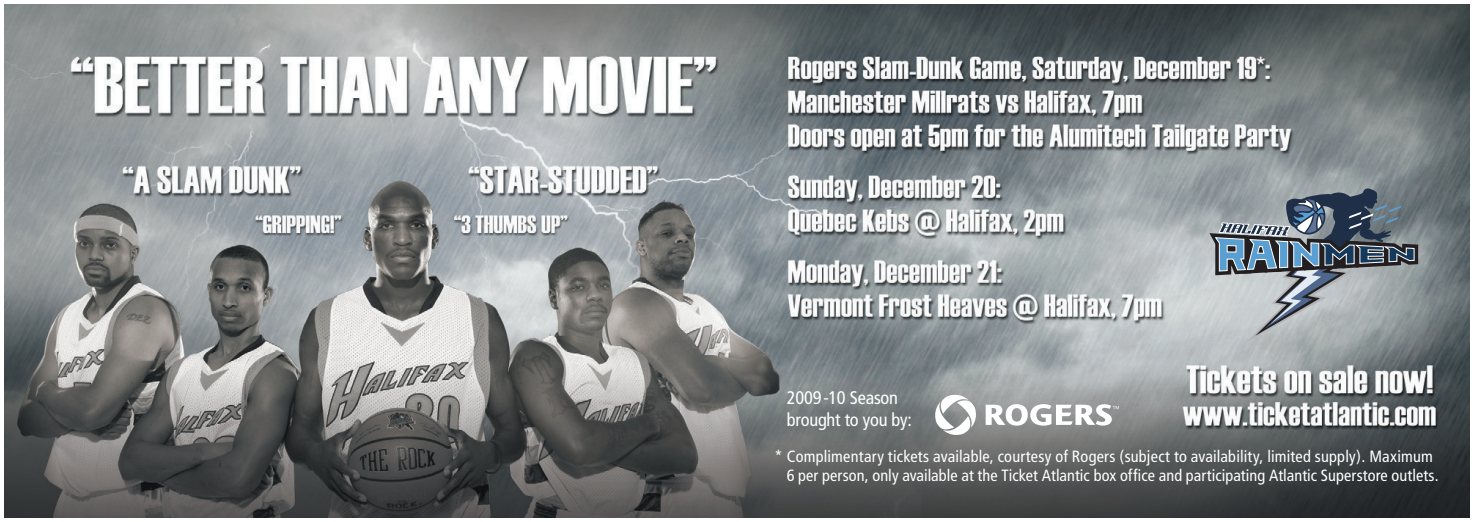
Sports in brief

NFL All-Pro wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald has a bruised bone and a sprained right knee, leaving his status uncertain for the Arizona Cardinals' game Sunday at Detroit. Fitzgerald was hurt during Monday night's 24-9 loss at San Francisco.

SOCCER Manchester United cruised past Wolverhampton 3-0 in Alex Ferguson's 900th league match in charge of the English champions yesterday. Wayne Rooney, Antonio Valencia and Nemanja Vidic scored to ensure United joined league leader Chelsea on 37 points ahead of the latter's match against Portsmouth today.

BASEBALL Texas Rangers owner Tom Hicks will enter into an exclusive negotiation for the sale of the team to a group that is headed by Pittsburgh sports attorney Chuck Greenberg and includes team president Nolan Ryan.

HOCKEY The Ottawa Senators could be without Jason Spezza for a considerable amount of time. The star forward suffered a knee injury in a 3-2 loss to Toronto on Monday. The extent of the injury won't be known until after Spezza undergoes an MRI. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Mercedes customers most loyal: Study

Mercedes-Benz has the most loyal customers in the industry, while Suzuki and Saab trail the list, according to a new survey by J.D. Power and Associates. The study measured the percentage of vehicle owners and lessees who replace a previously-purchased new vehicle with another from the same brand. **CANADIANDRIVER.COM**

Metro Drive

Women vote for Jaguar



The 2010 Jaguar XF has won the inaugural Women's World Car of the Year. The awards were selected by a panel of international female automotive journalists, including Metro Canada automotive writer Jil McIntosh.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Made in truck heaven

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

If you've ever seen desert rallies, where hand-built trucks race across sand dunes and rock crests, you'll appreciate the work that goes into making one of these ultra-tough machines. Now, you can buy a version right off the showroom floor, as Ford introduces the 2010 F-150 SVT Raptor.

It's the first truck produced by Ford's Special Vehicle Team (hence the SVT) since the 2004 Lightning. And while it's naturally going to appeal to a niche market, its design, engineering and tough-but-tender nature make it one of the best trucks I've ever driven.

The only way you can get close to this combination of power and prowess otherwise is to build it yourself.

2010 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor

Type: Pickup truck
Price: $48,299
Engine: 5.4L V8
HP: 320

Highlights

- Ultra-tough but tender
- Impressive suspension
- Comfortable on city streets

Only 550 are slated for Canada for 2010, starting at $48,299. That's a lot of money, but it's impossible to outfit a regular F-150 exactly like it, at any price. More importantly, and very unusually for this much off-road ability, it's also almost ridiculously comfortable on city streets. You won't have to pay once for a weekend toy, and again for a workday commuter.

It comes only as a Super Cab, with five-foot-five box, and right now with a 5.4-litre V8 with six-speed automatic transmission, producing 320 horsepower. A 400-horsepower 6.2-litre V8 will also be available. Naturally, 4x4 is the only configuration available, and Canadian trucks come complete with a luxury package.

The body is wider than a stock F-150, to accommodate the beefier suspension and Raptor-specific, 35-inch BF Goodrich tires. The fenders are rounded off, and a huge grille carries the brand name across its width. Inside, there are SVT-specific gauges, wheel and trim.

But the Raptor's heart is in its suspension. Racing shock manufacturer Fox Engineering created a new, rebuildable triple-bypass shock that, unlike most of Fox's products, you can only buy when the rest of the Raptor is attached. Ford says it's the first time any production truck has used anything like it. It stiffens as it compresses, becoming four times harder at the end of the stroke. The shocks let me take it over a series of desert crests at 65 km/h, as easily as tackling a speed bump at the mall, but turned pliable enough for an asphalt ride that's more comfortable than the regular F-150's performance.

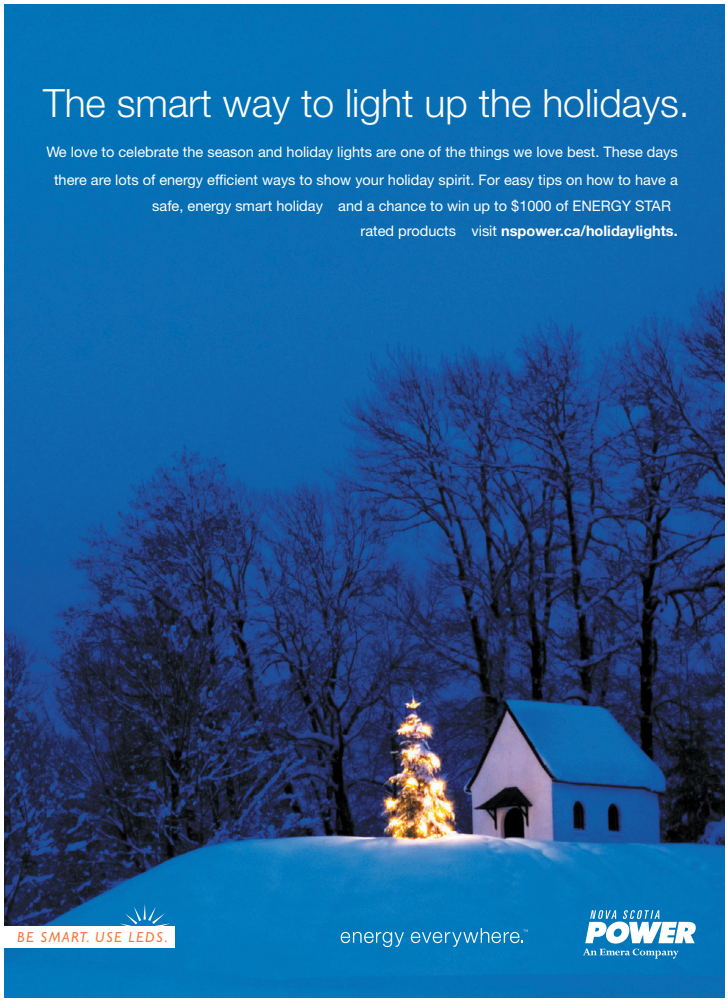




Inside, this special Ford F-150 features SVT-specific gauges, wheel and trim.

So does any of this make sense at a time when hybrids are hot, and compacts are king?

Well, no matter what fuel prices do, trucks are a necessity for some and a hobby for others, and if Go RVing can run TV ads extolling the virtues of driving a house across the country, the off-road crowd should have its fix, too. They simply can't do much better than with this newest Ford, which will turn heads on the tarmac as easily as it will on the trail.



Nissan X-Trail has loyal fans

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2005 to 2006 Nissan X-Trail
VEHICLE TYPE: Small SUV
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $9,000 to $15,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The Nissan X-Trail was launched as a 2005 model to duke it out with models like the Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Tuscon and Mitsubishi Outlander.

Ultimately, the Nissan Rogue replaced the X-Trail after only two years on sale– but not before the popular X-Trail found homes in the driveways of thousands of Canadians.

X-Trail could be ordered in a front-drive designation designed for on-road-only driving, though many owners opted for the selectable four wheel drive system.

This was ideal for those who needed to tackle trails, nasty winter conditions or cottage roads on a regular basis.

The X-Trail's 4x4 system even had a locking mode for extra traction in slippery situations.



Second Gear

Despite the capability, a unibody construction and four-wheel independent suspension ensured a car-like driving feel.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Styling, flexibility and ruggedness are among the top attributes of the X-Trail as reported by owners. X-Trail is an easy machine to configure for nearly any trip or chore, and many owners report a planted and confident feeling in four wheel drive models when travelling through winter or off-road conditions.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Some owners wish for better fuel consumption.

COMMON ISSUES: The X-Trail wasn't on sale for long in our market, so reliability information is limited. No major problems were reported by Canadian owners, nor by the American owners to whom the X-Trail was sold for years before it arrived in Canada.

That said, be sure to check for a common rust problem just above either rear wheel.

THE VERDICT: X-Trail is just one entry in a sea of crossovers and SUV's — but it earned a loyal and happy following of owners with its features, capability and seemingly trouble-free operation.

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Ford Drive one.

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Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Purchase finance example: monthly payment is $266.00. Monthly payment divided by two gives you the bi-weekly payment of $133.00, with a down payment of $0 or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be returned based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $19,866 (after delivery allowance of $0 deducted and $0 first month payment). All purchase finance offers include freight and air tax of $1,450 but exclude license, fuel fill charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. Twice a month payments are only available through Internet banking and telephone banking, if offered by your financial institution. The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract and to ensure that the total monthly payment occurs by payment due date. 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Atlantic Ford, 6595 Bedford Highway, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 3Y4.

Flex called future collector car

The Ford Flex has been named the most likely vehicle of 2009 to be desired by future collectors by the Friends of the National Automotive History Collection (NAHC) in Detroit. Previous winners include the 2008 Dodge Challenger and 2007 Dodge Viper SRT10. **CANADIANDRIVER.COM**

Top 10? Make that 11



Yes Virginia, this is another year-end top-ten list.

Maybe you and Virginia are thinking, "enough already."

I feel your pain, but we must do this. If we don't, it will contravene that law of the universe, which states that if you don't get all those top ten lists in by the end of any year, the next one won't start properly.

So here we go with our totally subjective picks for the best vehicular moves in calendar year 2009.

Lots of good stuff at the small end of the market this year (Mazda3, Kia Soul, Honda Insight), but for me, the **Nissan Cube**, stood out like a psychedelic Maytag. Very fun. Very useful.

If we move up the food chain just a bit, you have to tip your hat to the new **VW Golf**, the recently knighted "World Car of the Year." Our favourite Golf variant is the TDI Wagon.

BMW X6 M — you are a totally outrageous and unnecessary SUV, trying to seduce good citizens away from more responsible transportation, so you can just … give me a call sometime.

GM might have blown the timing of the **Chevrolet Camaro** debut, but not the car. For boomers so inclined, the car is right on the muscle-car money.

Swinging back to the practical again, we really like the new **Subaru Legacy and Outback** models, an intelligent evolution of a great concept — efficient and low-centre-of-gravity boxier engine, all-wheel-drive, and just-right-sizing for a family of four.

Something more first classy? We're smitten with the new **Mercedes-Benz E Class sedan**. It's got space-station levels of computerization and innovation, but also manages to retain its persona as a fine, traditional European motorcar.

We have to include at least one honest-to-goodness truck, and the all-new **Dodge Ram Heavy Duty** is, as advertised, heavy duty to the max. Equipped with the Cummings diesel engine, it can pull a bungalow off its foundations, and then show off some more, by dragging it around the block a few times.

It's not really ready for prime time, but earlier this year, 500 all-electric **Mini E** units were leased out to drivers in several U.S. cities. We like how it's doing a lot of heavy lifting in the real-world testing of "plug ins" and their infrastructure issues, and how it makes the case that EVs don't have to look like, or perform like, re-worked golf carts.

To these eyes the new **Ford Taurus** is a little too big, but we like almost everything else about it, especially as it signals a return of a certain Americana esthetic and presence in the full-size car class.

We wanted to end our list with something exotic, but couldn't decide between the **Aston Martin One-77** and the **Ferrari California**.

The Aston costs about $1.7 million, makes 700-plus horses, and only 77 will ever be built. Who can argue with number like that?

Even so, the California is so tempting with it's front midship V8 engine, retro convertible profile, relative value (about $200 grand), and huge performance capabilities.

So we didn't decide and gave thumbs up to both of them.

Yes Virginia, this top ten list goes to eleven. Get over it.





The Nissan Cube, top, and Ford Taurus are two of Michael Goetz's picks for best cars of 2009.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



Ferrari California

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SFU breaks ground for Surrey campus expansion
Last Friday marked the start of construction of the $10-million Podium 2 expansion of Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus. The project will see the university upgrading and renovating over 5,000 square metres of additional space. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Jobs top reasons for dropping out

According to a new U.S. survey, 71 per cent of respondents who had dropped out of college said that work was a factor in their decision to quit, and over half said it was a major factor. About 35 per cent of those who quit school said they had tried to balance work and study, and found it too stressful. The survey's results build on a growing body of research showing that part-time students and those who have to work generally fare worse than do their full-time peers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Deck the halls — and the city

From coast to coast, Canadian cities bring the holiday season to life with decorations

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

In case you didn't know the holiday season was upon us, the festive decorations throughout your city have probably reminded you by now.

Every year Canadian cities invest in outdoor decorations because making the streets look good is an important part of getting people into the spirit of Christmas.

In Vancouver's premiere shopping district of South Granville, 11 blocks of primarily high end home decor boutiques, art galleries and antique stores are being dressed up to the nines with new planters, banners, wreaths and other street-level decorations by the district's own Business Improvement Association (BIA).

Sharon Townsend, a spokesperson for the South Granville BIA, says the upcoming Olympics means this year they're pulling out all the stops for decoration.

"Our neighbourhood is undergoing a simply enormous transformation. We're pushing the Olympic theme and making sure the streets are festive and clean," Townsend said.

To encourage individual store owners throughout neighbourhood to contribute to its beautification, the South Granville BIA offers marketing grants to members and has created a $320,000 decoration campaign with prizes awarded to the businesses that best decorate their exterior areas. A good-looking neighbourhood is beneficial for all business owners, Townsend says.

Across the country in downtown Toronto, workers have transformed the space in front of City Hall with lights, wreaths and an enormous, 62-foot high spruce tree — the city's official Christmas tree for the season.

Neil Weller, 63 and president of Weller Tree services, has provided Toronto's official tree for the past 46 years and says the responsibility is a great honour.

"We're very proud of it. When everything lights up it's a big bonus for us and it's an honour to be doing it every year," Weller said.

Kevin O'Reilly, 48, is the maintenance foreman from Toronto City Hall in charge of decorating the official tree every year as well as running preparations for Toronto's city-wide Cavalcade of Lights celebration. O'Reilly and his team work hard to decorate the tree because the tree is an important symbol of holiday cheer.

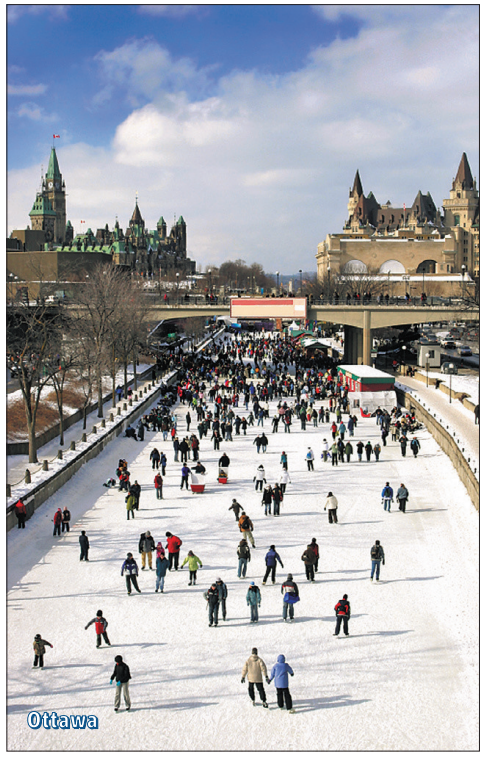
"The Christmas tree is the centre of attention — it's the most important part of the decorations. Everybody works together and there's a passion for it," O'Reilly said.

The team starts around Labour Day, usually about six weeks in advance of the celebration, collecting resources together and sending crews out to beautify the city. The tree itself takes two weeks to decorate. Despite the amount of effort involved, O'Reilly says it's all worth it in the end.









"Watching people's faces light up when the lights come on makes all the work worth the effort. It gets people in the Christmas mood, happy and smiling for the season," O'Reilly said.



Miami hotel guests moved after guest dies

About 300 guests have been relocated from a luxury Miami hotel after one former guest died and at least two others have become sick since Oct. from Legionnaires' disease. Health officials say the guests at the EPIC Hotel were moved to prevent potential contact with the waterborne bacterial disease. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel



Handcrafted carousel rides into B.C.

A new carousel has opened at the Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island and it's all lit up for Christmas. The Rose Carousel, crafted by Brass Ring Entertainment of Sun Valley, Calif., is the only carousel on Vancouver Island. The 30 animal rides were handcarved from basswood and include bears, horses, ostriches and zebras. The carousel also includes two chariots. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

5 Winter fairy tale getaways

Destinations to keep you busy all over the Christmas break



METRO WORLD NEWS

The days may be short in Finnish Lapland but the fun certainly isn't. From snowmobiling to tobogganing, winter games are plentiful.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Cafes are many on our list

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Fancy a bit of pre-Christmas sparkle to get you in the mood for the festive season?

Metro picks out five top destinations which really shine in winter.

Most destinations are at their most charming and beautiful during the winter months, so it's recommended you plan to go soon. Cozy cafes, stunning Christmas markets and snow-studded scenes are what make each individual destination so special.

Aim to visit between now and February, when you can really make the most of the festive and magical vibe that enveloped each city during the months of winter.

Best to travel between Nov-Feb

ZADAR, CROATIA
Sound of the Sea

Nestled on the Northern Dalmatian coast, Zadar feels somehow isolated from the rest of Croatia. It is rich in history; the city gates date back to the Renaissance and are guarded by a ferocious looking Venetian lion.

And for full-on spookiness listen to the sounds of the Sea Organ on the front. Built by architect Nikola Bašic, the organ plays random notes as the seawater crashes into the pipes.

BRUGES, BRUSSELS
Medieval Magic

Medieval, sensual, magical and gothic … Bruges is the most extraordinary, ordinary place.

Serving as a cultural bridge between North and South Europe throughout the 14th and 15th century, daily life has become rather sleepy since it ended.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Head to Le Cerniers to dive into an electricity free holiday.

But, under the dormant surface lies an eclectic culture shaped by centuries of battle and hardships.

Meander around the streets by horse drawn carriage or stop off at Café Vlissinghe (cafevlissinghe.be) the oldest Cafe in Bruges for traditional Belgian beer.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Opera, cafes and Christmas

Vienna embraces the festive period like few other cities.

The joie de vivre (possibly helped along by the delicious gluhwien sold on the streets) is contagious and the café culture reflects this; Café Drechsler (cafedrechsler.at) serves delicious brioche and scrambled eggs. The city is also a musical hub, The Staatsoper Opera (Opernring 2) — once the local hangout of Mozart and Beethoven — has some spectacular shows.

FINNISH LAPLAND, FINLAND
Toboggan time

With a white Christmas guaranteed Finnish Lapland is the ultimate winter wonderland. The days may be ridiculously short, but that's the least of your worries when you're too busy having fun snowmobiling, tobogganing or husky-sledding (most are floodlit when the sun goes down… just after breakfast). Stay in the village of Saariselkä; the indigenous Sámi people are amazing hosts and have plenty of fascinating winter tales to tell to brighten up the long nights.

LES CERNIERS, SWITZERLAND
An Eskimo Experience

A holiday without running water or electricity may not sound like the most enchanting experience. But a stay at Whitepod (whitepod.com), a mountainside chalet east of Lake Geneva, may change your mind. You'll feel a bit like an Eskimo once settled in your igloo-like tent but there are plenty of sheepskin rugs, hot water bottles and wood burners to keep you warm. Climbing mountains in the snow may leave you feeling cramped and sore, thankfully you can indulge in a Thai foot massage in the central chalet's Spa and 30 minutes away are the hot thermal springs of Lavey Les Bains.



For the family who has everything but a cottage by the sea for sometime in February.

White Point Gift Certificates are perfect for the "hard to buy for" and the "don't need anythings".

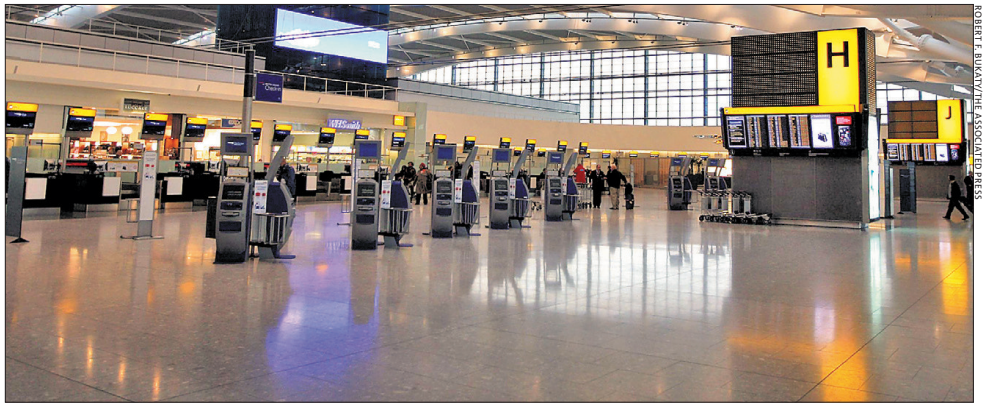
www.whitepoint.com 1.800.565.5068

White Point Beach Resort

Western Europe flights decline
The number of North Americans travelling to Western Europe declined about 20 per cent, from 12.9 million to 10.4 million, since 2001. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flights increase even with hassles

Remember getting through an airport without removing your shoes, dumping your water bottle or showing ID?


ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online booking, kiosks and discount websites has made lining up to buy tickets a thing of the past.

Remember when buying plane tickets by phone was faster than using a clunky Web site with a dial-up connection? Remember when you needed a guidebook to plan a vacation, and when you had to phone ahead to get directions? All these things are different now, thanks to two forces that have changed travel and tourism in the last decade profoundly and forever: terrorism and technology.

Long before Sept. 11, 2001, air passengers walked through metal detectors and had their carry-on luggage screened by X-ray. But these procedures failed to prevent the 9/11 attackers from boarding four jets with knives and box cutters.

The changing face of travel

Today, travellers who forget that snow globes, wine and water bottles aren't allowed through airport checkpoints seem absurdly out of touch. And there's little sympathy if you miss your flight because you didn't allow enough time for security lines.

Despite the hassles, though, North Americans fly more now than they did a decade ago. Air travel hit a record high in 2007 with 769.6 million passengers, 100 million more than flew in 2000.

Even with the recession, more North Americans flew in the first eight months of 2009 — 478.6 million — than in the first nine months of 2000 — 453 million.

Technology is the other big force that's changed travel in the last decade. In 2009, for the first time, more than half of flight bookings were made online.

But the Internet's impact on travel is not just in booking; it's also in planning trips. Instead of buying a guidebook, today's traveller might consult a destination website.

To find a restaurant, you might go online to Yelp or Chowhound, or ask friends for a recommendation through Facebook or Twitter. Technology has even changed the way we drive to our destinations. MapQuest started offering directions online in 1996, the same year GM introduced Onstar. Google Maps dates to 2005 and a GPS device once sold for $589 start as low as $89 today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seized items at an airport.

70 In 2000, 64.2 million North American residents travelled abroad. In 2008, the number climbed to 70 million and with the rebound in economy is expected to climb to 75 million by 2015.





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www.unitedwayhalifax.ca

Suri top child fashion poll

Suri Cruise has been named the most fashionable child celebrity, in a new poll by Adams Childrenswear. The three-year-old beat the Beckham brothers and Madonna's stylish daughter Lourdes for the top spot. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment



New Auntie

Kim Kardashian got an early Christmas present: A nephew. "I'm an auntie!!!!" she Twittered hours after her sister, Kourtney, gave birth to a healthy baby boy in Los Angeles Monday. USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Up In The Air leads Globes

Directors Reitman, Cameron among Canadian nominees

Films from Canadian directors Jason Reitman and James Cameron were among those leading the Golden Globe contenders Tuesday, with Reitman's recession-era tale Up In The Air and Cameron's sci-fi epic Avatar both racking up nods in key categories.

Up In The Air leads the pack overall with six nominations, among them best drama and acting honours for George Clooney, Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick, and nods for directing and writing for the Montreal-born Reitman.

"I can't put into words how exciting it is to feel and to know that I'll be going to the Golden Globes with everyone I worked with on this film," Reitman said. "This was one of those ensembles that we really enjoyed working together. We're a tight-knit family. The idea that we're going together is just wonderful."

Avatar scored four, including best drama and director for the blockbuster filmmaker Cameron, originally from the mining town of Kapuskasing, Ont.

The directing category pits him against ex-wife Kathryn Bigelow for the Iraq War tale The Hurt Locker, also up for best drama. Other directing nominees were Clint Eastwood for the South African rugby drama Invictus and Quentin Tarantino for his Second World War rewrite Inglourious Basterds.

Inglourious Basterds also landed a best drama nod, as did the Harlem drama Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.

The musical Nine ran second with five nominations, including best musical or comedy and acting slots for Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz and Marion Cotillard.

Up against it for best musical or comedy are the romance (500) Days of Summer, the bachelor-party bash The Hangover and two Meryl Streep films, It's Complicated and Julie&Julia.





TV series Mad Men, left, and director Jason Reitman, above, are among the nominees.

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for a full list of the Golden Globes nominees, or read it at metronews.ca/entertainment.

Up in the Air generally has been considered a comedy, but its inclusion in the drama category could give it more weight as a potential favourite for the Academy Awards, where dramatic films tend to dominate.

It's a third-time triumph for Reitman, the 32-year-old son of legendary Canadian director Ivan Reitman (Stripes, Ghostbusters).

His previous two films both scored nominations at the Golden Globes as well, with the 2007 teen pregnancy comedy Juno, earning a best comedy nod before going on to nab additional nominations at the Oscars.

Reitman's first film was the acclaimed Thank You for Smoking in 2005, which racked up two Golden Globe nominations.

Playing a frequent-flyer junkie in Up in the Air, Clooney competes for best dramatic actor with Jeff Bridges as a boozy country singer in Crazy Heart, Colin Firth as a grieving gay academic in A Single Man, Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela in Invictus and Tobey Maguire as a prisoner of war in Brothers.

Cameron's triumph comes as the visionary releases his most ambitious outing yet, a 3-D technological feat billed as the most expensive film ever made. His long-awaited return to the feature film spotlight comes 12 years after his Oscar-winning historical epic, Titanic.

In TV categories, nominations for drama series went to HBO's Big Love, Showtime's Dexter, Fox's House, AMC's Mad Men and HBO's True Blood. Musical or comedy series bids went to NBC's 30 Rock, HBO's Entourage, Fox's Glee, ABC's Modern Family and NBC's The Office.

Hollywood's second biggest film honours after the Academy Awards, the Globes are a key ceremony that sort out the prospects leading up to the Oscar nominations Feb. 2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Nominees

- **Picture, Drama:** Avatar, The Hurt Locker, Inglourious Basterds, Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire, Up in the Air.
- **Picture, Musical or Comedy:** (500) Days of Summer, The Hangover, It's Complicated, Julie&Julia, Nine.
- **Actor, Drama:** Jeff Bridges, Crazy Heart; George Clooney, Up in the Air; Colin Firth, A Single Man; Morgan Freeman, Invictus; Tobey Maguire, Brothers.
- **Actress, Drama:** Emily Blunt, The Young Victoria; Sandra Bullock, The Blind Side; Helen Mirren, The Last Station; Carey Mulligan, An Education; Gabourey Sidibe, Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.
- **Director:** Kathryn Bigelow, The Hurt Locker; James Cameron, Avatar; Clint Eastwood, Invictus; Jason Reitman, Up in the Air; Quentin Tarantino, Inglourious Basterds.
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy:** Matt Damon, The Informant!; Daniel Day-Lewis, Nine; Robert Downey Jr., Sherlock Holmes; Joseph Gordon-Levitt, (500) Days of Summer; Michael Stuhlbarg, A Serious Man.
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy:** Sandra Bullock, The Proposal; Marion Cotillard, Nine; Julia Roberts, Duplicity; Meryl Streep, It's Complicated; Meryl Streep, Julie&Julia.

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metro



Polanski film to premiere in Berlin

PEOPLE Roman Polanski's latest movie, The Ghost Writer, will have its world premiere at the Berlin film festival in February, organizers said yesterday.

Polanski's movie was among a first batch of entries in the festival's main program that was announced yesterday — among them a premiere of Martin Scorsese's Shutter Island. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moss relocating to France
Kate Moss is moving to Paris. The supermodel has put down a deposit on a $35 million apartment in the French capital and is planning to move there in the spring with her daughter Lila. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

In brief

LEGAL Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton's attorney says his client "vigorously denies" charges that he tried to buy a large amount of cocaine from an undercover police officer. In an email to The Associated Press on Tuesday, Herbert E. Walker III said he looks forward to representing Banton in court, but he would not discuss the case further.

AUCTION An unusual piece of Charles Dickens memorabilia is being auctioned in New York City: his ivory and gold toothpick. It's up for sale Tuesday at Bonhams New York. The pre-sale estimate is $3,000 US to $5,000 US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit:
metronews.ca/movies

Hollywood's favourite P.I.

A historic look at pop culture's fascination with Sherlock Holmes

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Very soon, one of the most iconic figures in popular culture will be making his latest global appearance on Christmas Day. And contrary to what you may be thinking, I'm not talking about Santa Claus.

When Sherlock Holmes hits theatres on Dec. 25, it'll mark over a Century's worth of cinema starring fiction's most famous detective. But while the fictional British bloodhound tries to upstage St. Nick on Christmas Day, his celluloid appearance is certainly not unfamiliar.

Ever since Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's prized investigator made his on-screen debut in 1900 with a one-reeler called Sherlock Holmes Baffled, Hollywood has been smitten with the gumshoe. Since, Holmes has made more than 200 film and TV appearances and been portrayed by such thespians as Basil Rathbone, Michael Caine, Charlton Heston and Canada's own Christopher Plummer.

So, what's made Holmes perhaps Hollywood's most popular private eye? Well, according to a leading member of a Calgary-based appreciation group called The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen, it's elementary, dear Watson.

"First off is the love affair that the screen has with the mystery genre," said Charles Prepolec. "When you boil it all down, people are a curious lot and enjoy seeing a secret revealed or a mystery unraveled."


Jude Law, left, and Robert Downey Jr., star in the newest big screen version of Sherlock Holmes.

Of course, the mystery yet to be revealed is whether the latest modern twist on Holmes will live up to hardcore fans' high expectations.

"I've been very skeptical about the casting of Robert Downey Jr," admitted Prepolec. "You might say I'm in the cautiously optimistic camp although some members of (our group) are perhaps somewhat less sanguine about the film. We'll see soon enough!"

Indeed we will. In the meantime, for fresh enthusiasts who want to investigate Holmes' Hollywood history, here's a list of three versions of Sherlock to get your Wats' on:

1) The Sherlock Holmes Collection – Just released to DVD, this celebrated BBC series from the 1960s starred Peter Cushing as the legendary sleuth.

2) The Hound of the Baskervilles (1939) – Basil Rathbone played Holmes in 14 films but many critics say this early classic was the portrayal that shaped the rest.

3) Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) – Ever wonder how Holmes handled puberty? This family flick by director Barry Levinson (Rain Man) explored the pipe-smoking private eye as a pimply-faced teenager.

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101.3 THE BOUNCE
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For December 15th
9 Jason Derulo - In My Head
8 IYAZ - Replay
7 Aleesia - Bubble Gum
6 Hedley - Don't Talk To Strangers
5 Down With Webster - Rich Girl$
4 David Guetta Ft Akon - Sexy Chick
3 Beyonce Ft Lady Gaga - Video Phone
2 Lady Gaga - Bad Romance
1 Ke$ha - Tik Tok
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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/16/09	31	31	31 ABC	News Center 5	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Prep- Landing	The Middle	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Eastwick
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	The Middle	The Vampire Diaries		Eastwick
	11	11	11 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Christmas Dreams		Holiday Festival on Ice		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Union-force	La Petite vie	*Nitro* (2007, Action) Guillaume Lemay-Thivierge. (SC)				Tout le monde	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	KM/h (N) (SC)	*Noël avec les Krank* ★★ (2004, Comédie) Tim Allen.				TVA nouvelles
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV PA)		Saturday Night Live Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas				News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	etalk	Access H.	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		So You Think You Can Dance The winner is announced.				CTV News
primetime	10	10	10 ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk (N)	Community Matters			
	36	36	36 FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance The winner is announced.				Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	The Sing-Off The five remaining groups perform. (N)				Jay Leno Show
	29	29	29 NW	(6) Power & Politics		Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Planet Earth
	4	4	4 PBS-B	PBS NewsHour (N)		Greater Boston	Ask This Old	Great Performances at the Met "Tosca" (HDTV) (N)				
	35	35	35 PBS-D	PBS NewsHour (N)		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s				Magic Moment
	68	68	68 TQS	Guerre clans	Le Mur	Merlin (N) (SC)		*3 voeux pour Noël* (2006, Drame) Amber Benson. Début.				Guerre clans
news	23	96	96 BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight		The Close	Market Call	Squeeze Play		Business News
	18	18	18 CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Golf Videos	Big Break Disney Golf (HDTV)		Big Break Disney Golf (HDTV)		Golf Highlights
	52	52	52 RSE	Connected W-Prime Time		Boxing Jelena Mrdjenovich vs. Ann Saccurato.				The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR	Covers Experts	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Orlando Magic. (Live)					Court Surfing	
	45	45	45 SPD	Unique Whips		Pass Time	Pass Time	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Phoenix Coyotes at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey
family	43	43	43 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
	26	26	26 TREE	Bob-Bidr	Drummer Boy	Blue's Room	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Yo Gabba	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar
	27	27	27 YTV	Yogi's Caper	Smurfy	Naked	Rocko's Life	Hates Chris	Fresh Prince	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Steven Seagal
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN National News (N)		APTN InFocus	We Joggin' 2		Wings-Canada	Olympics: Away From Home		Great Towns
	50	50	50 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)				*Sugar Hill* ★★ (1993, Drama) Wesley Snipes, Michael Wright.				
	37	37	37 BRVO	Wind at My Back		The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar
	25	25	25 CMT	CMT Star	CMT Star	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.
	49	49	49 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	RENO 911!
	153	153	153 COURT	A Few Good Men and Women		True Crime "Fire Lover"		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified		True Crime
	38	38	38 DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Mighty Ships		Megabuilders		Mayday
	34	48	48 HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Intervention	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters
	46	46	46 HIST	Outlaw Bikers		Ice Pilots NWT (N)		Life After People		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT
	17	17	17 MM	MuchMusic Video Awards		Make It or Break It (N)		The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		Degrassi: TNG
	19	19	19 MMM	mmtop10.ca		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage
	201	201	201 M1	(6:45) *Night Train* (2009, Suspense)			(8:20) *Nurse.Fighter.Boy* (2008, Drama)			*Sex and the City* ★★★ (2008)		
	48	23	23 OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters
	51	51	51 PEACH	The Office	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU		The Office	The Office	*Win a Date*
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:40) *The Big Hit* ★★		(8:15) *Scream of Stone* ★★ (1991, Drama)				*Memento* ★★★ (2000, Suspense)		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		The Guard		Cra$h & Burn		Bones
	40	40	40 SLICE	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Nearly Dead	Nearly Dead	Nearly Dead	Newlywed	In-Laws
	47	47	47 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Medium (HDTV)		Supernatural
	14	14	14 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Fight Night (HDTV)				Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die
	57	98	98 STAR	etalk	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		Dr. Oz Show
	21	21	21 TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Little Couple	Little Couple	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Dwarf Adoption Story		I'm Pregnant
	56	34	34 TROP	Project Runway Canada		King	King	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Devoir d'enquête		*Mauvaise Foi* ★★★ (2006, Comédie) Roschdy Zem.				Mixeur
	28	28	28 V	Emily of New Moon		Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Open All Hours	*The Christmas Hope* (2009, Drama), Ian Ziering		
	60	97	97 VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest		Cold Case "Discretion"		Psychic Inv.	The Closer "Homewrecker"			Cold Case
	22	22	22 W	Confidential	Divine Design	*Silent Night* (2002, Drama) Linda Hamilton, Matthew Harbour.				*Under the Mistletoe* (2006, Drama)		
	251	251	251 WGN	WGN Evening News		Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		WGN News

critics' corner

Make It or Break It
Aspiring Olympic gymnast Emily Kmetko (Chelsea Hobbs) shakes up the status quo when she receives a scholarship to train at The Rock, a gymnastics center in Colorado. Now her competition includes Payson Keeler (Ayla Kell), Kaylie Cruz (Josie Loren) and Lauren Tanner (Cassie Scerbo), all talented gymnasts with a fierce competitive streak. Peri Gilpin and Zachary Burr Abel also star in this series. 8 PM on MM





50 Cent getting his Jolies

50 Cent knows exactly who he'd like to switch places with, if only temporarily. "I'd be Brad Pitt. Go sleep with Angelina (Jolie) and come back," the rapper tells Complex magazine. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

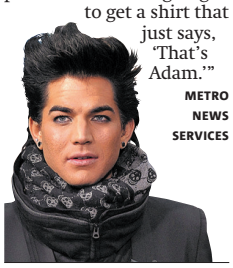
Adam Lambert is just being himself

RELAX, ALREADY Shocked over Adam Lambert's recent performance antics? Don't be, says American Idol winner Kris Allen, because there is more to come, people com reports.

"Yeah, that's who he is," Allen saya. "Obviously, he couldn't do that stuff on Idol. And so you're getting to see the real Adam now."

Lambert caused an uproar for his sexually charged performance on the American Music Awards last month, which led ABC to cancel his scheduled New Year's Eve appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live and his performance on Good Morning America. He was allowed to appear on The View.

"I thought it was Adam being Adam," Allen says of Lambert's AMA performance. "I'm going to get a shirt that just says, 'That's Adam.'"



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay Lohan's dad arrested

NATURE OR NURTURE? BOTH Repeat offender Michael Lohan was arrested earlier this week after violating a restraining order taken out by ex-girlfriend Erin Muller, according to TMZ. Michael Lohan was charged with criminal contempt of court by violating an order restricting him from "trying to communicate by phone."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Rihanna is moving on

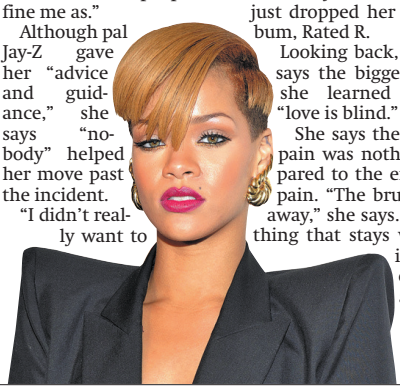
STAY STRONG, CARRY ON By continuing to speak out about Chris Brown's violent Feb. 8 attack, Rihanna says she is slowly moving past the ugly incident, usmagazine.com reports.

"It's relieving," the singer, 21, says in the January issue of GQ. "Because it was built up for so long, and all these thoughts and emotions have been running through my mind for the past eight months. And now it's like I finally get to let go and move on."

Although she says doesn't like "talking about it" a lot, "every time I do, it's better; it's easier each time."

She says she finally decided to speak out about the incident because, "I wanted to move on. And I knew that was the only way I could have done it. And I wanted people to move on with me. 'Cause the last big thing they know about me is "that night". And I don't want that to be what people define me as."

Although pal Jay-Z gave her "advice and guidance," she says "nobody" helped her move past the incident.



"I didn't really want to be around anybody, for them to stare at me and stuff, and feel sorry for me. So I just — I stayed in the house a lot. Then I started to get cabin fever. I was like, I'm going crazy in here," says the singer, who just dropped her latest album, Rated R.

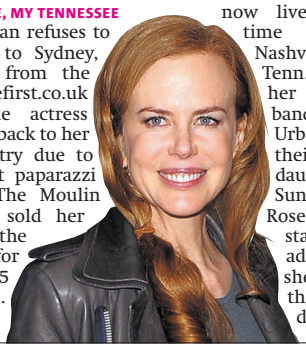
Looking back, Rihanna says the biggest lesson she learned is that "love is blind."

She says the physical pain was nothing compared to the emotional pain. "The bruises fade away," she says. "But the thing that stays with you is the emotional scars."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nicole won't live in Oz

OH TENNESSEE, MY TENNESSEE Nicole Kidman refuses to move back to Sydney, Australia, from the U.S., femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress won't move back to her native country due to the constant paparazzi hounding. The Moulin Rouge star sold her home in the city in May (for around $10.5 million US).



Kidman now lives full-time in Nashville, Tenn., with her husband Keith Urban and their daughter Sunday Rose. The star is adamant she made the right decision.

She says, "It (media attention) makes certain cities impossible to live in. Like Sydney, it makes it impossible for us to live there.

"We certainly don't get that treatment in Tennessee. But it goes with the territory. It's just, we have to be careful, just to maintain some sort of semblance of a normal life for our child."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Courtney loses Frances

POOR KID Courtney Love has lost custody of her daughter with the late Kurt Cobain, Frances Bean Cobain, according to People magazine. A California court has appointed Wendy O'Connor and Kimberly Cobain, the 17-year-old girl's grandmother and aunt, her legal guardians, and the two women now have authority over the Frances Bean's education, health care and living situation.



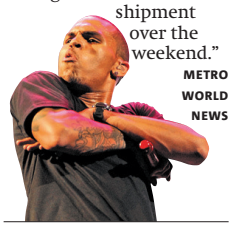
A reason for the change in custody wasn't given. "This doesn't necessarily mean that Courtney Love is an unfit mother and has completely lost custody," a legal expert tells the magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Chris Brown flies the Twitter coup

NO MORE TWEETS Just days after using Twitter to blast Walmart and other retailers for apparently refusing to carry his new album, Chris Brown has cancelled his account with the microblogging site.

The sudden departure comes after Walmart released a statement addressing his complaints saying, "We are surprised at the comments online. All Walmart stores nationwide have carried the CD since its release, including the Wallingford store mentioned in the post. This store actually sold through its initial shipment over the weekend."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Stephen Fry can't resist a bad pun, Sandra Bernhard is politically motivated, Nick Cannon is a frequent flyer and Rainn Wilson really needs to get off Twitter.



• @stephenfry Busy in studio all morning voicing narration for a 5 part doc on Delia. Fingering a Shetland. (Feeling a little horse/hoarse geddit? Lol)

• @SandraBernhard up and I mean up. Thinking about joe leiberman, he really touches me and that makes me violent.

• @NickCannon Just landed back in ny. Just for the day. Time to grind, then back to La tonight. Let's get it!



• @rainnwilson I had a dream where I twittered about a dream I was having.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Whitney Houston likes to keep it subtle

SHE'S FAMOUS FOR IT, RIGHT? Whitney Houston says less is more, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer places great importance in not revealing too much flesh, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

She told America's InStyle magazine, "A smile, a little glance, the way you lean back says sexy without being too open or offending anyone. Because once they've seen it all, they go, 'Man, I'm bored with that,' instead of 'Hmm, what's she going to do now?'"



METRO WORLD NEWS

Alex and Kate plus an amicable break

STRIKE OUT Just months after winning the World Series, Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez has apparently called it quits with girlfriend Kate Hudson, according to Hollywood Life. The split appears to be amicable, as Rodriguez was spotted in Miami recently "with two women, acting very single," a source says.



METRO WORLD NEWS

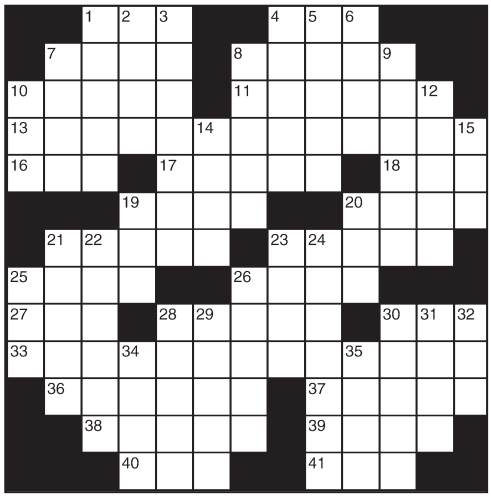


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Take Five



ACROSS

1 Massage
4 Acorn producer
7 Parsley partner
8 "Sesame Street" character
10 Chamberlain nickname
11 Experts
13 Property of uranium, e.g.
16 Officeholders
17 Prepare to propose
18 "Golly!"
19 Apportion (out)
20 Writer Kingsley
21 Backbone
23 "I Know Who Killed Me" actress
25 Noisy
26 Broomcloset items
27 Dadaist painter
28 Spingarn Medal org.
30 Blackjack part
33 13-Across detector
36 Drool
37 Crystal-lined rock
38 Recording artist?
39 Title
40 Mound stat
41 Rds.

DOWN

1 Incursions
2 Wrinkly citrus
3 Give evidence of
4 Give a speech
5 Tiny bone in the ear
6 Chicken —
7 Ollie's pal
8 Host
9 Baffler
10 Lanka lead-in
12 Oktoberfest souvenir
14 Chip in a chip
15 "Certainly"
19 Central
20 Oohs' mates
21 Sensitive spots
22 Students
23 Crazy
24 Calls into question
25 Trail behind
26 PC user's shortcut
28 When pigs fly
29 Action venue
30 Fermi's particles
31 Relinquish
32 Before
34 Fence entry
35 Tidy

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4							2
		9	1					
2		8		7	4			5
					3		8	1
		4		1		7		
6	3		8					
9			7	5		8		3
					6	9		
8							5	

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